

Minor bank stabilisation works

Pumpkin Point rock fillets

The site

Pumpkin Point is located on the banks of the Karuah River in the old township of Hamilton near the small settlement of Allworth. The site is a privately owned reserve which is popular with anglers and their families and is often used by local charities as a 'place to escape from it all' for people suffering from long-term illness. The property was purchased in 1991 and since then the owners have witnessed the mangrove-lined banks erode from boat wake wave action.

The project

The site was identified by the Hunter Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority as an ideal location for rock fillet construction to alleviate issues from erosion. Rather than rock-lining the banks, rock fillets provide stability to river banks and protection from wave erosion to allow vegetation such as mangroves to establish in the space behind them.

With advice from an environmental consultant the owners developed a rehabilitation plan for the site. Habitat grant funding was used to purchase rock and contract an earthmover to undertake the rock fillet construction along a 200 metre reach of the river. Considerable volunteer time and effort from the team of owners in managing the project, obtaining the necessary local and state government approvals, revegetating and maintaining the site have made this a successful project.

The outcomes

This successful rehabilitation project has:

- protected 200 m of river bank from excessive erosion
- created a stable environment for mangroves to re-establish and further stabilise the banks
- enhanced fish habitat for estuarine fish species.

Proponent: Riverside Retreat

Land use: private

Habitat grant: \$11,480

In-kind support: \$15,433



An excavator with a long arm grab was used to construct the rock fillets. Photo: D.Kirkness



Rock fillets protect young mangroves against wave action erosion. Photo: I&I NSW