

APPENDIX 1. GLOSSARY

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| A | Acid sulfate soils | A mix of low-lying clays and sands that contain sulphur-bearing compounds at concentrations above 0.05% in clays and 0.01% in sands. These soils are found in both coastal and inland areas and become acidified if exposed to air. |
| | Aerobic | Living or active only in the presence of oxygen. |
| | Anabranh | An anabranh is a section of a river or stream that diverts from the main channel or stem of the watercourse and rejoins the main stem downstream. Local anabranches can be the result of small islands in the watercourse. In larger anabranches, the flow can diverge for a distance of several kilometres before rejoining the main channel. |
| | Algal bloom | The rapid growth of algae in an aquatic ecosystem. |
| | Anaerobic | Not requiring or using free oxygen. Anaerobic organisms usually make use of compounds containing oxygen atoms (i.e. carbohydrates, nitrates or sulphates) for their metabolism. |
| | Anoxic | Without oxygen. |
| B | Best Management Practice (BMP) | An economically viable management practice that has been determined to be the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing environmental harm. |
| | Biodiversity | The variety of life forms, the different plants, animals, micro-organisms and the ecosystems they form. |
| | Biomass | The mass of living organisms, and dead matter such as wood, leaves, litter and other organic matter. |
| | Bog | A wet area overlying peat or other soft organic matter. Bogs often form through the degeneration of lakes or streams. |
| | Brackish water | A mixture of freshwater and seawater. |
| | Braided streams | A creek or river flowing via several channels which divide and reunite. |
| | Buffer zone | A strip of vegetated land that is reserved between a potential source of pollution and an area that must be protected from the pollution. |
| C | Catchment | The area of land that collects rain that then flows into one or more waterways. |
| | Clay pan | A compacted layer in the subsoil that contains higher clay content than the soil above. The clay reduces the vertical water movement through the subsoil and restricts the growth of roots downwards. |
| | Corridor | A strip of vegetation that allows wildlife to move from one site to another. This prevents populations from becoming separated and maintains the genetic pool in the population. Corridors can have disadvantages such as concentrating wildlife and attracting predators. |
| | Crop rotation | The growing of different crops and pastures on the same paddock in annual succession. |

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| D | Deciduous plants | Plants that drop all their leaves during autumn. |
| | Dissolved oxygen (DO) | <p>The oxygen that is dissolved in water by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transfer from the air/water surface • plants carrying out photosynthesis • wave action and waterfalls. <p>Low concentrations of dissolved oxygen (1-2mg/l) usually indicate the presence of excessive organic loads in the system, while high values (12-14mg/l) can indicate excessive plant production.</p> |
| E | Ecosystem | A community of organisms and the physical environment with which they interact. |
| | Ecosystem services | The benefits obtained from natural assets, such as soil, plants, animals, air and water that include provision of clean water, maintenance of biodiversity, liveable climates, pollination, people's cultural, spiritual, intellectual needs and provision of options for future generations. |
| | Environmental Management System (EMS) | A system that is used to manage environmental impacts on a methodical and continuous basis. |
| | Electrical conductivity | Measure commonly used to indicate the salinity of water. (1 EC = 1 microsiemen per centimetre, measured at 25°C). |
| | Effluent | Any waste products (whether treated or untreated) that are discharged into the environment. |
| | Ephemeral wetland | Having a short wetting and drying cycle, or not permanent. |
| | Epizootic Haematopoietic Necrosis (EHN) virus | A disease that the exotic redfin perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>) carry that affects native fish, particularly the vulnerable species silver perch and Macquarie perch, as well as mountain galaxias and exotic trout species. |
| | Estuary | The part of a river in which water levels are affected by sea tides, and where fresh water and salt water mix. |
| | Evapotranspiration | The movement of water from plants to the atmosphere. |
| F | Flora | The general term used for plants. |
| | Filter strip | A specialised vegetated buffer strip where vegetation, usually a dense grass strip, is used to trap and retain soil and nutrients moving in surface and groundwater flows. |
| | Floodplain meadows | A species rich lowland or low lying meadow on land that is flood prone. |
| | Fry | Name given to a group of fish larvae. |
| | Fuel loads | The potential fire risk from fuel type and quantity in an area can play an important role in determining the types of fires as well as fire intensity. Fuels vary in their structural form, size (fine or coarse), and spatial arrangement (surface or elevated). |

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| G | Gleying | Gleying refers to the colour change from red/yellow to blue/grey that occurs in a soil profile. It occurs when iron is reduced to a soluble form and leaches from the profile, leaving a gleyed mottled appearance. Longer periods of inundation cause stronger colour changes. |
| | Groundcover | A vegetative layer of grasses and/or other low lying plants or plant residues (in the Western CMA, cow pats, stones and sticks can function as groundcover). Groundcover filters nutrient from water, covers bare soil and protects against erosion. |
| H | Hydrocarbons | Organic molecules containing hydrogen and carbon. |
| | Hydrosol | Soils that are covered by water either permanently or intermittently. |
| I | Introduced fish | Fish that are not native and have been brought into the country and released. They hunt and compete with native fish. Also referred to as exotic fish species. |
| | Invertebrates | An animal lacking a backbone (eg. insects, jellyfish, worms, molluscs, yabbies). |
| | Lakebed cropping | Farming on lakes when they are not inundated. Lakes are cropped when soil moisture levels are high after floodwaters recede or after rain. |
| | Large woody debris | See 'snags'. |
| | Lignum | Hairless perennial shrub, to 2.5 m high, with many slender tangled striate branches and branchlets (<i>Muehlenbeckia species</i>). |
| | Lignum swamp | Located on inland floodplains which are filled by surplus or flood flows and dominated by lignum vegetation. It is characteristically found in extensive braided floodways or overflows associated with the rivers of central and western New South Wales. It also occurs in smaller depressions and billabongs adjacent to the river channel. Lignum swamps rely on intermittent flooding from rivers as their main source of water. |
| M | Macro-invertebrates | An invertebrate animal large enough to be seen without magnification. |
| | Macrophyte | A plant that grows within the stream; may be fully or partly submerged e.g. ribbon weed or reeds |
| | Marshes | An area of damp, boggy land, either regularly or permanently under water. Marshes are usually found on flat, poorly drained sites with clayey soils. |
| | Mitigate | To lessen the severity of an event, eg. flooding. |
| | Monosulfidic black ooze (MBO) | Goey black sediments formed in low oxygen environments. They form on the bottom of drains or where land has been covered with water for long periods of time. |
| N | Native fish | Fish native to NSW waters. |
| | Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) | Measure of turbidity. |
| O | Oxidation | Combination with oxygen, especially of ferrous iron to produce ferric iron (rust). Acid water leached from oxidising acid sulfate soils can cause rust coloured stains and slimes. |

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| P | Parts per million (ppm) | A measure for describing small concentrations. If one millilitre (ml) of substance A is diluted in 1000 litres (which is a million mls) of substance B then the concentration of substance A is 1ppm. Milligram (mg) per kilogram (kg) is then same as ppm. |
| | Pathogens | A disease-producing fungus, virus, bacterium or other living organism, especially one that is a parasite. |
| | Perennial plants | A plant that survives for three or more growing seasons, especially flowering plants that produce flowers every year. |
| | pH | Relative acidity or alkalinity of a liquid or solid and is expressed on a logarithmic scale of 0 - 6 (acid) to 8 -14 (alkaline), with 7 being neutral. |
| | Photo points | A method of monitoring where a photo is taken of the same place intermittently over a period of time to show positive or negative change or impact. |
| | Phytoplankton | Minute, free-floating aquatic plants. |
| | Plankton | Simple forms of life stimulated to grow and multiply by light and nutrients in the water. Base of the marine food chain. |
| | Property Vegetation Plan (PVP) | A voluntary but legally binding agreement between a landholder and the local Catchment Management Authority (CMA). |
| | Pugging | Soil damage (compaction) caused by grazing animals when their weight cannot be supported by the soil surface, such as deep footprints of cattle in muddy areas. |
| R | Ramsar listed wetland | A wetland of international importance as listed in the Ramsar Convention, signed in the city of Ramsar, in Iran in 1971. |
| | Riparian | Of, inhabiting, or situated on, the bank and floodplain of a river. |
| | Routine Agricultural Management Activity (RAMA) | Clearing fencelines, ripping new pipelines and other activities where clearing of native vegetation does not require approval under the <i>Native Vegetation Act 2003</i> . |
| S | Salinity | The amount of mineral salts dissolved in water or existing in solid form. The groundwater table rises due to changes in land use in areas where most rain falls, the salts rise with the water and make the soil saline and unproductive. Salinity is expressed as electrical conductivity. |
| | Snags | Trees and old logs that fall into the water and provide suitable habitat and protection for native fish and invertebrates and a surface on which bacteria and plankton to grow. Snags are also known as 'large woody debris'. |
| T | Terrestrial | A common termed used for land based objects or activities. |
| | Turbidity | The relative clarity of water. If the water is not clear or transparent it is turbid. Turbidity is caused by particles of extraneous matter. It is measured in NTUs (Nephelometric Turbidity Units). |
| W | Water quality | The chemical, physical and biological condition of water. |
| | Wetland | Land inundated with temporary or permanent water that is usually slow moving, stationary or shallow, and either fresh, brackish or saline. |