

Nominated waterways in a wild river area

June 2007

This information sheet explains nominated waterways and how to identify them in a wild river area.

For more information about wild rivers, contact a Wild Rivers Officer by phone 07 4039 8281 or email wild.rivers@nrw.qld.gov.au.

What is a nominated waterway?

A nominated waterway is a drainage feature located in a **preservation area** within the wild river area (see Figure 1). Nominated waterways extend laterally to the 'outer banks' (see Figure 2). Nominated waterways can overlap with subartesian management areas, floodplain management areas and designated urban areas. Nominated waterways are mapped in each wild river declaration.

Why nominate waterways?

In wild river areas, certain rules apply to particular waterways. By mapping, or nominating, such waterways, developers such as landholders, miners and assessment agencies (such as local governments) can be confident of where these waterways are, and therefore aware of where the wild river requirements apply.

How do I know how far a nominated waterway extends?

Length of nominated waterway

The upstream and downstream extents of a nominated waterway are mapped in a wild river declaration and can be identified on the ground using GPS co-ordinates (see also Figure 1).

Width of nominated waterway

The width of a nominated waterway is defined by the 'outer banks', i.e. the widest extent of a channel. The outer banks are defined using the physical form of a channel. The width of a nominated waterway may vary along its length and will depend on the size of the waterway and the type of terrain through which it runs. A nominated waterway may be *confined*, *unconfined* or *partly confined*.

A *confined* stream is bordered by hills, bedrock or a terrace and has no floodplain. Scour marks¹ or sediment deposits² can be used to determine the lateral extent of these channels (see Figure 2). The height of the banks may differ on either side of the channel.

¹ A scour mark is a mark or line left along a bank from the sweeping action of suspended sediments during high flows. They can be identified along a bank by rock surfaces that are clean of lichen or have weathering stains
² Sediment deposits can be made of clay, silt and/or sand.

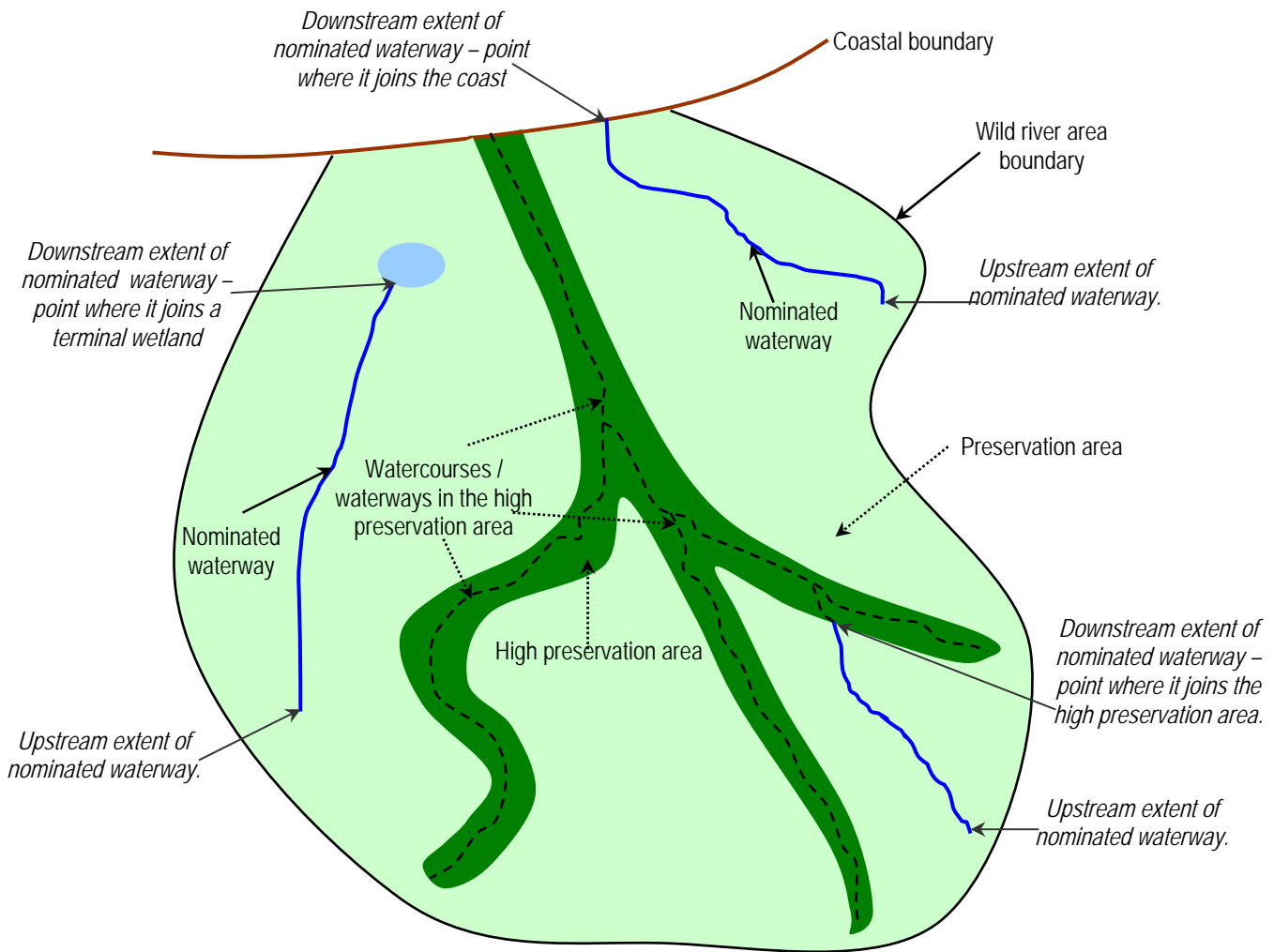


Figure 1 Examples of nominated waterways. Nominated waterways can be connected directly to the high preservation area, terminal wetlands, or the coast. They can have both tidal and non-tidal reaches, but do not include gullies.

An *unconfined* stream is bordered by a floodplain on both sides – for a nominated waterway this is referred to as an ‘unconfined bank’. The lateral extent of these channels is the point where the channel becomes floodplain – i.e. the top of the outer bank. The height of the outer bank may differ on either side of the channel.

A *partly confined* stream is confined on one side and unconfined on the other (i.e. a combination of the first two valley settings). The outer extent of the channel can be determined using the

approaches described for both confined and unconfined valley settings. The height of the banks may differ on either side of the channel.

If there is any uncertainty as to the extent of a nominated waterway, contact your local Department of Natural Resources and Water office.

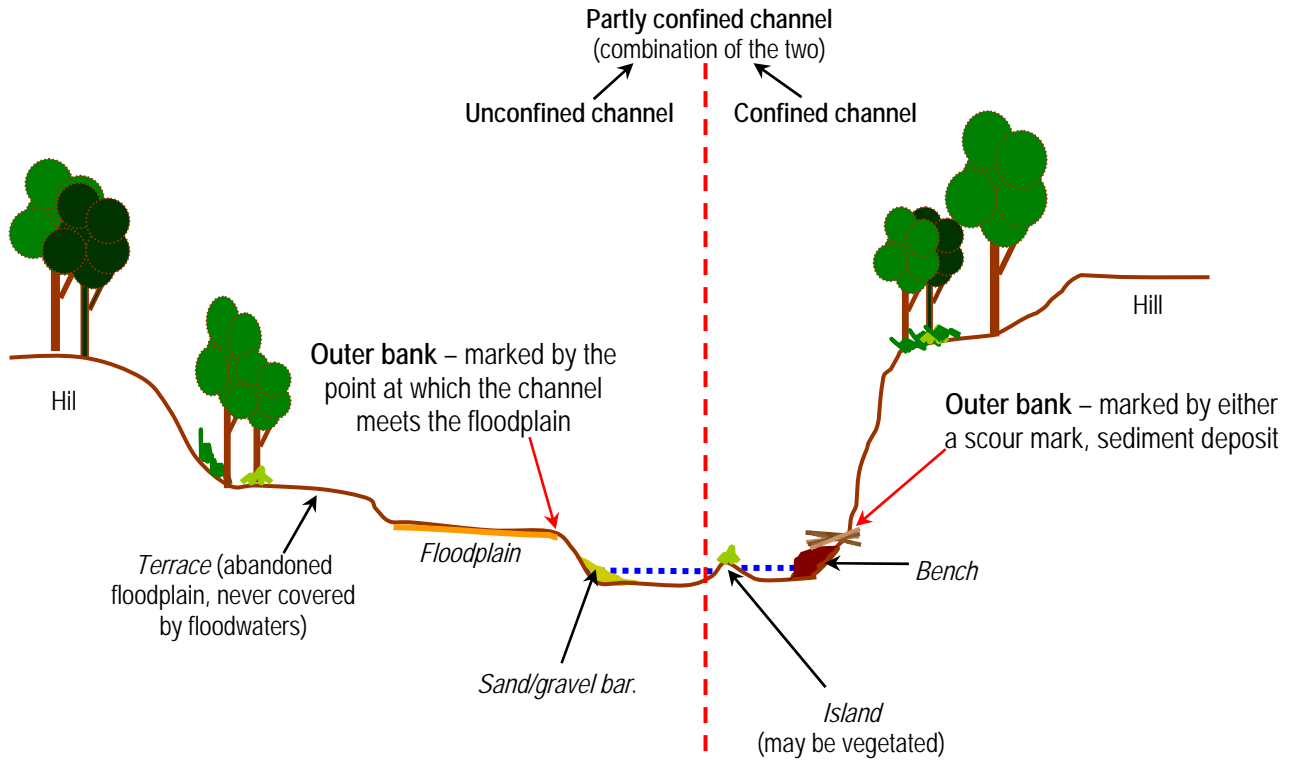


Figure 2 Cross-sectional view of a channel, highlighting the identification of the outer banks. This diagram is a composite describing confined, unconfined and partly confined channel types. *Note: if you need assistance in interpreting this diagram for your situation please contact a Wild Rivers Officer).*