



Glossary

Biodiversity: Abbreviation for "biological diversity"; the variety of living things; can be used to describe the condition of an area, eg "the biodiversity of a stream, forest or school grounds".

Biological indicator: A species, which through its presence or absence, can provide information about the environmental health of an ecosystem. Frogs or Mayfly larvae in a stream can be an indication that the stream does not have high levels of pollution. A large number of feral bird species may indicate that an area has a high proportion of environmental weeds.

Botany: The scientific study of the structure of plants, the function of their parts, their description and classification.

Catchment: A geological area in which water is collected.

Channel characteristics: The features that can be found along the length of a creek or river. Channel characteristics can include deep pools, shallow riffles, native streamside vegetation and eroded banks.

Creek: A natural stream of water following a bed or channel usually smaller than a river. May be dry from time to time.

Conductivity: The amount of electricity that passes through a substance. It is used to measure the salinity of a water sample.

Dicot: A subclass of flowering (Angiosperm) plants based on anatomical characteristics. They tend to have: broad leaves, needle like veins in the leaves, flower parts are usually in fours or fives, a ring of primary vascular bundles in the stem, taproot system, two cotyledons.

Ecosystem: The physical and climatic features and all living and dead organisms in an area that are interrelated in the transfer of energy and material

Ecological processes: The natural flow of materials and energy through an ecosystem. This includes the cycling of carbon and nitrogen, as well as the flow of energy up the food chain, from producers to consumers.

Endangered: Any species in danger of becoming extinct within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endemic: A species that has its natural distribution confined to a particular geographical region and/or is native to a particular region.

Environmental flow: The share of water, or water allocation, especially set aside to promote the health of a river's environment, including the life it supports.

Environmental weed: A plant not naturally occurring in that area or ecosystem.

Estuary: The outlet of a watercourse where fresh water and sea water mix.

Flow regimes: The type of water flow that occurs in a creek or river. A river should have a range of flows at different times of the year including flooding, slow flows and still water.

Forest: Vegetation community consisting of trees to 30 metres tall, generally with an understorey of smaller trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs. Open forest has 30-70% canopy cover, while closed forest has a canopy cover of >70%. Tall forests have trees exceeding 30 metres in height.

Genus: An assemblage of species, having so many fundamental points of structure in common, that in the judgment of competent scientists, they may receive a common substantive name. A genus is not necessarily the lowest definable group of a species for it may often be divided into several smaller sub-genera.

Habitat: The physical location or type of environment in which an organism or biological population lives or occurs.

Indigenous: Native, originating or occurring naturally in the place specified.

Land Use: The way an area of land is used or managed. Land uses can include industrial, residential, various types of farming, recreational parks and reserves.



Macroinvertebrate: Any animal, large enough to be seen with the naked eye, which has no backbone or spinal column, (i.e. Insects, worms, larvae etc). Aquatic macroinvertebrates live mostly in water.

Microinvertebrate: Any animal, too small to be seen with the naked eye, which has no backbone or spinal column.

Monocot: A subclass of Angiosperm plants based on anatomical characteristics. They tend to have; narrow leaves, one cotyledon, parallel veins in the leaves, flower parts are usually in multiples of three, a scattered arrangement of primary vascular bundles in the stem, fibrous root system.

Natural Habitat Features: Natural features of an ecosystem that provide habitat for organisms. It includes fallen branches and trees, tree hollows, rotting piles of timber and rock piles.

OCWMB: Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board

OWN: Onkaparinga Waterwatch Network

pH: A measure of the amount of acid or alkaline in a water sample.

Photosynthesis: The process through which light energy, water and carbon dioxide are converted to carbohydrate and oxygen in the presence of chlorophyll. Occurs in plants, algae, cyanobacteria and lichens.

Provenance: For seeding material, the provenance is the harvest location. For plants it is both the harvest location and the location of the nursery.

Rare species: Any plant or animal species, which although not presently threatened with extinction, naturally occurs in such small numbers throughout its range, that it may become endangered if its environment worsens.

Regeneration: New growth or regrowth of lost or destroyed parts, tissues or organs.

Remnant: A small part that remains after the main part no longer exists.

Riffles: Sections of a stream that flow faster because they are shallow. Riffles often occur where the stream has a rocky bottom, and can be recognised by the disturbance of the water surface where it flows over the rocks.

River: A large stream of water flowing in a bed or channel and emptying into the ocean, a sea, a lake or another stream.

Salinity: A measure of the amount of salt in a water sample.

Septic tanks: An underground tank that collects all waste water from a house. Excess water drains into the soil via perforated distribution pipes.

Species: The most fundamental unit of evolution and the most specific taxonomic level. A group of individuals whose morphology is uniquely distinct.

Stormwater: The flow of water across the ground after a rain event.

Swamp: Tree or tall shrub dominated wetlands, characterised by periodic flooding and nearly permanent subsurface water flowing through mixtures of mineral sediments and organic material.

Threat: Something that is a source of imminent danger.

Threatened species: Those species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Turbidity: A measure of the clarity of a water sample.

Vegetation association: A group of different plant species that associate together under common physical and climatic conditions. The response of these associations is so strong that the same groups of plants will generally associate in the same structure, under the same upper stratum. Therefore, vegetations are labelled in accordance with the dominant upper stratum species.

Vulnerable species: Those species, which are not presently endangered in the wild but are likely to become endangered if factors presently threatening their abundance, survival or evolutionary development cease to operate.

Watercourse: A natural or artificial channel through which water flows.

Wetland: An area where the land is saturated with water.

Woodland: An open stand of trees up to approximately 18metres in height in which tree crowns cover at least 30% of the area but are not, for the most part, overlapping.

