

step 2 IDENTIFYING NON-AGRICULTURAL LAND

Conducted in the paddock or home

In this step you will identify Land Class 8.

Land Class 8: Land incapable of sustaining agricultural production but may be suitable for activities such as low intensity farm forestry, revegetation or wildlife shelters.

You will need:

Property plan

Red permanent marker

This stage of land classing involves identifying areas not suited to agriculture. Features that prevent agriculture occurring are inherent physical or environmental characteristics of the land that cannot be altered.

Permanent streams

Streams should be managed to preserve your section, and to avoid contributing to problems such as siltation and pollution down stream. The areas adjacent to a permanent stream should be treated as non-agricultural land, as poor management around the stream will have major consequences on a catchment-wide basis. The land should be classified as non-agricultural and should include a 15 metre buffer strip on either side of the stream to prevent erosion of the stream bank and pollution of the water supply. Ideally permanent stream buffer strips should be fenced off and revegetated.

Permanent natural water bodies

Permanent natural water bodies do not include farm dams but include lakes and wetlands. The same environmental concerns that occur with permanent streams should be considered for permanent natural water bodies including a buffer strip (15 metres wide) around the waterbody. Stock should not be allowed to enter the waterbody as this would not only cause bank erosion and damage revegetation, it will also affect the quality of the water.

Degraded land

Active land degradation that makes agricultural activities impossible, such as eroded gullies and salt scalds, should be fenced off and ameliorated.

Native Vegetation

Native vegetation is an asset to your farm and the environment and should be preserved. Large areas of native vegetation should not be constantly used for agriculture. These areas should be fenced off to allow for regeneration, and used as wildlife areas or corridors. With care they could however, be used as emergency grazing land in very dry seasons.

Very steep land

Very steep land will be identified and marked out in Step 3: Determining Your Slope Class

On the plan, mark out the boundary of the non-agricultural land and label with the appropriate land class code the following areas using a red marker:

- Permanent streams (15 metre buffer strip) - 8PS
- Permanent waterbodies (15 metre buffer strip) - 8PW
- Degraded land - 8DL
- Native Vegetation - 8NV



Figure 3 Step 2: Marking out the non-agricultural land on the property plan.