



Capertee River Subcatchment

The Capertee River subcatchment lies on the north-west boundary of the Hawkesbury Nepean catchment. The Great Dividing Range separates the Hawkesbury Nepean from the Central West catchment near the town of Rylstone. Large sandstone cliffs rim the valley while the valley floor is largely shale. Approximately 50% of the subcatchment lies within the Wollemi National Park and Gardens of Stone National Park, part of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The valley floor has had a long history of grazing and the waterways are generally highly degraded in these settled areas.

The valley contains a very rare river category, the "Meandering Lateral" river category, in Reach 4 of the Capertee River (Capertee R4), Reach 2 of Red Rock Creek (Red Rock R2), and Reach 3 of Coco Creek (Coco R3), which is of high environmental significance. Riverbank erosion and bed incision in the valley has been a major contributor of high sediment loads degrading the Colo River downstream that flows through Wollemi National Park. Reducing this sediment input is a high priority. Large volumes of sediment are also being contributed as a result of gully and sheet erosion in the valley. Willows are invading the waterways and salinity is also a significant threat, promoting erosion and degrading water quality.

Significant community based environment activity occurs in the valley and a large project has been initiated to restore habitat for the Regent Honeyeater.

Reach Management Recommendations – Capertee River Subcatchment

| Reach Name | Reach Description | Riparian Land Management Category | Reach Values | Reach Threats | Reach management recommendations (Planning, Education, Works, Monitoring, Institutional) |
|-------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Capertee R2 | From Wollemi National Park boundary to Oaky Creek junction. | Revegetation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant vegetation community Significant environmental program tied to flagship species (Regent Honeyeater) Significant community based environment activity (Capertee Valley Catchment Group) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damaging access (stock) Barriers to ecosystem functioning Flow extraction <p>Action Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe downstream impacts (severe downstream sedimentation from erosion in this reach) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of stock impacts on waterways (W) Encourage adoption of sustainable land management practices in riparian lands (E) Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) Water quantity / flow management (I) Channel bed or bank stabilisation works (W) Maintain existing community based environment activity (E,P) Revegetation with indigenous riparian vegetation (W) |
| Capertee R3 | From Oaky Creek to just downstream of 'Capertee Angle' | Assisted Regeneration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good riparian vegetation Good river condition Significant vegetation community Identified flagship species (World Heritage Area) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow modification / extraction No significant identified threats in this reach as it is a gorge not used for grazing, unlike the reaches up and downstream. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quantity / flow management (I) Develop conservation management agreements to protect remnant riparian vegetation (P) |
| Capertee R4 | Capertee Angle to Glen Davis | Revegetation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rare or threatened river category (Meandering Lateral) Significant vegetation community Significant environmental program tied to flagship species (Regent Honeyeater Project) Significant community based environment activity (Capertee Valley Catchment Group) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damaging access – severe stock damage Barriers to ecosystem functioning Flow extraction Massive erosion of unprotected banks Bed lowering and incision Sedimentation of reach from bank erosion <p>Action Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rare or threatened river category (Meandering Lateral) Severe downstream impacts (erosion causing downstream sedimentation of World Heritage Area – Colo River) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revegetation with indigenous riparian vegetation (W) Management of stock impact on waterways (W) Encourage adoption of sustainable land management practices in riparian lands (E) Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) Water quantity / flow management (I) Channel bed or bank stabilisation works (W) Maintain existing community based environment activity (E,P) |
| Capertee R5 | Glen Davis to junction with Wollemi Creek in National Park | Assisted Regeneration (In National Park) | | | <p>Downstream section of reach in Wollemi National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop conservation management agreements to protect remnant riparian vegetation (P) |
| Coco R1 | Headwaters and gorge in National Park | Conservation (mainly in National Park) | | | <p>Reach mainly in National Park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop conservation management agreements to protect remnant riparian vegetation (P) |

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|-------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Coco R2 | From National Park boundary to junction with Red Rock Creek | Conservation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good riparian vegetation • Wetlands of regional significance • Popular recreational fishing • Popular swimming • River based tourism contributes to regional economy • Significant community based environment restoration activity • Highly successful partnership between Friends of Colo community group, NPWS & Environmental Trust removing black willows • Flagship species – numbers of significant fauna species associated with this reach and adjacent World Heritage Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaging access • High woody weed invasion –previously significant invasion of black willows now under active control program – ongoing monitoring and maintenance will be required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop conservation management agreements to protect remnant riparian vegetation (P) • Management of stock impacts on waterways (W) • Encourage adoption of sustainable land use practices in riparian lands (P,E) • Removal/replacement of exotic riparian vegetation (W) • Riparian wetland management (P,W) • Maintain existing community based environment activity – provision of incentives (E,P) • Maintenance of recreational values – recreational water quality (M) |
| Coco R3 | From junction with Red Rock Creek to Capertee River junction | Revegetation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare or threatened river category (Meandering Lateral) • Significant vegetation community • Significant environmental program tied to flagship species (Regent Honeyeater Project) • Significant community based environment activity (Capertee Valley Catchment Group) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaging access – severe stock damage • Barriers to ecosystem functioning • Flow extraction • Massive erosion of unprotected banks • Bed lowering and incision • Sedimentation of reach from bank erosion <p>Action Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare or threatened river category (Meandering Lateral) • Severe downstream impacts (erosion causing downstream sedimentation of World Heritage Area – Colo River) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revegetation with indigenous riparian vegetation (W) • Management of stock impact on waterways (W) • Encourage adoption of sustainable land management practices in riparian lands (E) • Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) • Water quantity / flow management (I) • Channel bed or bank stabilisation works (W) • Maintain existing community based environment activity (E,P) |
| Red Rock R2 | Partly confined and floodout reaches starting at Red Rodk Flat down to junction with Coco Creek | Revegetation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant vegetation community • Rare or threatened river category (Meandering Lateral) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaging access (stock) • Barriers to ecosystem functioning • Flow extraction <p>Action Triggers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare or threatened river category (Meandering Lateral) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of stock impacts on waterways (W) • Encourage adoption of sustainable land management practices in riparian lands (E) • Aquatic habitat condition and connectivity improvement (P,W) • Water quantity / flow management (I) • Increase community capacity for environmental restoration (E) • Revegetation with indigenous riparian vegetation (W) |

Near Intact reaches within Reserved Lands: Red Rock R1, Capertee R1.