

Riverside Fencing Pictorial Specification

This guide is designed to help demonstrate the type of fencing that



has been designed and tested to best withstand severe flood events alongside rivers prone to flash or extreme flood events.

The fence should be set back from the break of slope with as wide a margin as possible. Averaging at least 5 metres.

Normally a 7 or 8 strand fence with a barb as the top strand is used. 6 foot posts set 2 metres apart with high tensile plain wire and normal barbed wire is recommended. Wider post spacing necessitates more strands of wire to stop sheep pushing through, which catch more rubbish in a flood. High tensile wire retains tension better.

The fence should be constructed in sections so that if one section is hit by water and debris, it will not damage the tension or structure of adjacent lengths. In an area that is liable to be hit by water e.g. at right angles to the direction of flow, then the fence should be split approximately every 50 metres. This can be extended where the danger is reduced such as parallel to the flow on a high bank.

The method of splitting the fence is shown below, using 2 strainers and a fence post but only nailing rails to one strainer and the post.

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Photos showing links between fencing sections.



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Note rails not nailed to strainer, so both sections of fence are completely separate.



10 foot
strainers
add to the
stability of
the fence.

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Breaks in the fence are ideal for including stiles for anglers.



Note the post doubling as a hand rail.



It is also important to include gates for access to manage the river bank and get any straying stock out. Gates should be positioned where stock may be trapped at high waters.

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The timber should all be tanalised and 6 foot fencing posts used in these situations.

Where there is severe erosion, the fence line must deviate around these to allow



time for restoration. Such areas may have willow stakes used in the toe, where suitable.



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Water gates should be used at points where flood water usually exits and rejoins the river in such as an old river course.



Fence wires should be capable of routine tightening and maintenance.



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Where large margins are left some light grazing may be desired. Thought should be given to invasive species such as Himalayan Balsam, maintenance of coppiced trees, access for fishermen and any footpaths.



Such fencing is often associated with willow spiling in eroded areas.

