

TASK CARD 1

Land use

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	Lots of industry, all land cleared, soil bare, environment completely disturbed	
1		
2	Some industry, some land cleared	
3		
4		
5	Some commercial, recreational and residential use	
Score for your site:		



At left – industrial development encroaches into riparian area. At right – sustainable irrigated agriculture beside a wetland. Photographs: Bill Phillips

Litter

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	Tonnes of litter, a dump site	
1		
2	Lots of plastic bottles and cans	
3		
4		
5	Some litter	
6		
Score for your site:		

Suggestion – Make notes of the types of litter floating on the water or on the surrounding landscape.



At left – typical water-borne litter. At right – lake shore used as dumping ground. Photographs: Bill Phillips

TASK CARD 1

Pipes and drains

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	A large number of pipes from industry, sewage treatment or stormwater drains	
1		
2	Some pipes and drainage trenches	
3		
4		
5	No pipes from industry, but some stormwater drains	
6		
Score for your site:		

Suggestion – Record what you think is coming out and from where you believe pipes and trenches are draining.



At left – pollution from industry. Photograph: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. At right – stormwater pollution. Photograph: Bill Phillips

TASK CARD 2

Structures and modifications

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	Natural flow is completely changed by in-stream structures	
1		
2	Some structures effecting natural flow	
3		
4		
5	No concrete structures but other structures affecting natural flows	
6	Free flowing river or streams	
Score for your site:		

Suggestion – Look for weirs, concrete banks, dams, road crossings and other structures that have changed flow patterns.



At left – in-stream weir regulating flows. At right – road crossing impacting on flow patterns. Photographs: Bill Phillips

Smell

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	Very strong unnatural chemical odours.	
1		
2	Strong unnatural smell from water.	
3		
4		
5	Strong natural smell (rotten fish/vegetation) or faint unnatural odours.	
6		
Score for your site:		



At left – Acid sulfate soils when exposed to air make waters acidic and smell of sulphur. Photograph: Jamie Pittock.
At right – Molonglo Reach running into Lake Burley Griffin. Unsafe due to blue-green algae. Photograph: Bill Phillips.

TASK CARD 2

Water clarity

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	Milky brown or green in colour with particles and scum. Impossible to see through.	
1		
2	Cloudy and/or greenish in colour with some particles and surface film.	
3		
4		
5	Some colour and/or particles.	
6		
Score for your site:		

Suggestion – Collect a water sample in a clear container. Hold it to the light to record its transparency.



At left – Soil erosion after a heavy downpour. At right – crystal clear water. Photographs: Bill Phillips

TASK CARD 3

Vegetation

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	Bare ground. Massive erosion. Dead or dying trees.	
1		
2	Pasture or primarily non-native species. Some erosion.	
3		
4		
5	Mixed native and introduced plants. Limited erosion.	
6		
7	Mainly native species. No erosion evident.	

Score for your site:



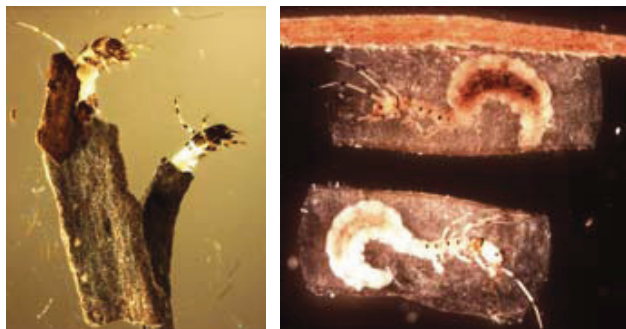
At left - Riparian vegetation dead or dying. At right - willows dominating and little native vegetation left.
Photographs: Bill Phillips

Invertebrate animals

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	No invertebrate animals found at all.	
1		
2	Only snails, worms and leeches found.	
3		
4		
5	Yabbies, backswimmers, dragonflies and damsel fly larvae found.	
6		
7	Mayflies and caddis fly present.	

Score for your site:

Suggestion – Watch, listen and look for animal signs such as tracks, scats, nests etc.



Different types of caddis fly larvae: some are found in wetlands only and others in rivers and wetlands.
Photographs: Rhonda Butcher

TASK CARD 3

Vertebrate animals

Score	Description	Tick for your site
0	No signs of animal life at all.	
1		
2	Primarily non-native species (carp, pigeons, Indian mynahs, rabbits, dogs, pigs etc)	
3		
4		
5	Signs of common native animals (kangaroos, cockatoos, galahs, magpies, ducks etc)	
6		
7	Less commonly seen animals observed (platypus, black swans, ibis, herons etc) and possibly breeding.	
Score for your site:		

Suggestion – Watch, listen and look for animal signs such as tracks, scats, nests etc.



At left – Platypus. Photograph: Kathryn Black. At right – Swans feeding. Photograph: Bill Phillips