

Contents

Executive summary	v
Acknowledgments	vii
Glossary	viii
1 Introduction	1
2 Aims	2
3 Outline	4
4 Background information	4
5 Swift Creek catchment characteristics	6
5.1 Climate	6
5.2 Landforms	6
5.3 Geology and soils	8
5.4 Land systems	8
6 Details of essential catchment baseline and impact assessment studies	10
6.1 Experimental design	10
6.2 Geomorphic map of the catchment and channel network	11
6.3 Channel reach definition and mapping	13
6.4 Recent channel stability/instability	20
6.5 Channel and floodplain sediments	20
6.6 Digital elevation model	22
6.7 River gauging stations	24
6.8 Suspended sediment loads	25
6.9 Bed-material loads	27
6.10 Bed scour depths	28
6.11 Channel erosion rates	28
6.12 Channel sediment storage	30
6.13 Sediment storages	30
6.14 Role of riparian vegetation and large woody debris in determining channel and floodplain stability	31

7 Conclusions and recommendations	32
7.1 Conclusions	32
7.2 Recommendations	32
References	33
Figures	
Figure 1 The Swift Creek catchment showing the Jabiluka Mineral Lease, gauging stations and local creek names	3
Figure 2 Distribution of the land systems of Story et al (1969, 1976) in the Swift Creek catchment	9
Figure 3 Preliminary geomorphic map of the Swift Creek catchment based on air photograph interpretation of the August 1991 1:10 000 prints	12
Figure 4 Geomorphologically homogeneous channel reaches in part of the Swift Creek catchment	16
Figure 5 Forested Bedrock-Confined Headwaters Reach of Swift Creek showing dense riparian vegetation growing in fault-controlled, straight sandstone gorge	17
Figure 6 Forested Straight Reach of Swift Creek showing dense riparian vegetation growing where channel debouches from sandstone-confined valley	17
Figure 7 Forested Meandering Reach of Swift Creek showing meandering channel pattern and dense riparian vegetation	18
Figure 8 Braided Floodout Reach on Swift Creek upstream of the Oenpelli Road	18
Figure 9 Fan Delta Reach on Swift Creek downstream of the Oenpelli Road	19
Figure 10 Terminal Wetland Reach on the lower section of Swift Creek	19
Figure 11 DEM of Swift Creek catchment	23
Tables	
Table 1 Aerial photography of the Swift Creek catchment held by <i>eriss</i>	5
Table 2 Rainfall stations located in the Alligator Rivers Region	7
Table 3 Preliminary definition and characteristics of geomorphologically homogeneous channel reaches in the Swift Creek catchment	14
Table 4 The Wentworth grain size scale for sediments	22