Long Grazing Periods Will Stress Riparian Areas

Long grazing periods allow cattle to graze where and when they choose to, not where and when we want them to. These long grazing periods fail riparian areas on all four range management principles.

Poor Distribution

- animals prefer to graze and loiter in riparian areas.
- they will stay there unless moved.



Vulnerable Period Use

 animals are present through all the vulnerable periods such as when banks are saturated and fragile or when woody species are susceptible to over-browsing.

Continuous, Heavy Grazing

- animals loitering or making frequent visits for water will graze and regraze riparian vegetation to a short stubble, before grazing the uplands.
- insufficient carryover or grass residue is left to protect plants and soil.





No Rest

 favoured plants are grazed, then regrazed when they should be allowed to rest and recover.

When livestock are allowed to graze riparian areas for extended periods, especially under a season-long or continuous type of use, riparian areas will become degraded. Shortening the grazing period starts to fix the problem.