



The use of the River Styles Framework as a tool to assess what is realistically achievable in river rehabilitation

~ Gary Brierley ~

An intriguing paradox is evident in emerging scientific framings of complexity and inherent uncertainties in the character, behaviour and evolution of river systems and reductionist managerial quests for simplicity and functional efficiency. The ways in which these dilemmas are played out have profound implications for society and the environment.

This presentation argues that we have reached a key transition point in shaping river futures.

- Do we seek to lock a river into a particular morphology shaped by a particular suite of formative processes (re-restoration based upon some image from the past)?
- Or, do we adopt a future focus wherein we create scenarios based on a range of current and expected future conditions, and promote river adjustments and adaptations in context of these conditions?

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