



Recent human impacts

An environmental impact is a specific ecological effect on an environment caused by a disturbance.

It is important to note that the A local ecosystem topic is focussed on examining the environmental impacts of disturbances caused by **human activities**.

Both of our study sites have been affected by a variety of past and continuing environmental impacts caused by human actions in the last few decades.

In describing these impacts it is important that you detail the human action that led to the environmental impact.

For example, lets examine the following paragraph:

Urban development in the surrounding area involved land clearing and earthmoving on building sites. This sped up the natural process of erosion and downstream sedimentation which meant that the riverside salt marsh ecosystem was smothered with eroded sediment which killed the saltmarsh and allowed the mangrove forest to take over. The species that depended on the salt marsh ecosystem were then unable to inhabit the area.

In the paragraph above the environmental impact process can be summarised as:

Land clearing = erosion of soil = deposition in other areas = smothering of salt marsh ecosystem = loss of habitat.

TASK:

Watch [the video](#) and take notes on the human actions and their associated impacts that have altered the ecosystems at the study site in the last 30 years.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/85315376>