

http://www.bushheritage.org.au/about/our-challenge/natural_world_land_clearing, Oct.2015



Land clearing and its impacts

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Australia is still clearing too much vegetation

Though the extreme rates of land clearing that placed Australia in the top 10 land clearing nations in the world have reduced in the past 5 years, we are still clearing much more native vegetation than is being replanted or that is regenerating naturally.

10 This ongoing net loss and decline continues to threaten Australia's environment. Clearing increases erosion and sedimentation of waterways and reduces water quality. Clearing removes habitats leading to the direct loss of millions of native animals and plants every year and creates an extinction debt.

Large-scale revegetation work has taken place on parts of our Scottsdale Reserve (NSW) that had been cleared before purchase. Photo Peter Saunders.

15 Rates of land clearing in Queensland and New South Wales are still unacceptably high and proposals continue for development in northern Australia involving clearing of hundreds of thousands of hectares. There is a risk that the severe consequences of clearing vast areas of southern Australia for agriculture will be repeated in the north.



20 Revegetating land to a complexity that resembles intact native vegetation is difficult and expensive. Recent reviews of natural resource management programs have highlighted the expense and difficulty in restoring an area to original condition and the incongruity of continuing to allow further clearing, given the existing problems and environmental challenges being dealt with in cleared landscapes.

What is land clearing doing to Australia?

25 European settlement has significantly altered Australia's natural landscape, and with it, Australia's biodiversity. About 90% of native vegetation in the eastern temperate zone has been removed for agriculture, industry, transport and human habitation. About 50% of Australia's rainforests have been cleared and the proportion of Australia covered by forest or woodland has been reduced by more than one third (Source: Creating Markets for Biodiversity, Productivity Commission, Canberra, April 2001).

30 The effect of these changes has been considerable. Around 5% of Australia's higher plants, 7% of reptiles, 9% of birds, 9% of freshwater fish, 16% of amphibians and 23% of mammals are listed as Extinct, Endangered or Vulnerable.

The impacts of clearing

a. Death and extinction of native birds, wildlife and biodiversity

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A swift parrot. Photo Graeme Chapman.



Over 5 million parrots, honeyeaters, robins and other land birds are killed each year by land clearing. For every 100 hectares of bush destroyed, between 1,000 and 2,000 birds die from exposure, starvation and stress. Half of Australia's terrestrial bird species may become extinct this century unless habitat destruction is rapidly controlled.

b. Salt-blighted farmlands and water supplies

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Salt will poison over 17 million hectares of Australian farmlands by the year 2050. As trees and native vegetation are bulldozed and cleared, water, once used by native plants, rises through the soil bringing with it ancient salt deposits. This salinity reduces soil and farm productivity, and seeps into rivers and water supplies.

c. Salt damage to regional towns, cities and infrastructure

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More than 200 regional cities could be affected by 'clearing induced' dryland salinity by 2050, with a larger number of small towns also at risk. Some of Australia's biggest cities such as Sydney's western suburbs are also at risk with salinity affecting foundations, parks, gardens, roads, buildings and other infrastructure. Rising groundwater caused by land clearing threatens to undermine 20,000 km of major roads and 1600 km of railways, with this threat expected to double.

d. Greenhouse gas pollution

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The Australian Greenhouse Office has estimated that land clearing contributed 13% of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions during 1996. Bulldozed, rotting and burning bush emits greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Land clearing's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions costs Australia around \$1.6 billion annually.

Clase 17: Land clearing and its impacts

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A: APROXIMACIÓN AL TEXTO

Observa:

- las partes del texto: traduce títulos y subtítulos
- ilustraciones
- convenciones gráficas
- organización del texto
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B. I. ANALIZA LAS EXPLICACIONES:

La argumentación: datos y opiniones

El texto argumentativo tiene como objetivo expresar opiniones o rebatirlas con el fin de persuadir a un receptor. La finalidad del autor puede ser probar o demostrar una idea (o tesis), refutar la contraria o bien persuadir o disuadir al receptor sobre determinados comportamientos, hechos o ideas. La argumentación, por importante que sea, no suele darse en estado puro, suele combinarse con la exposición. Mientras la exposición se limita a mostrar, la argumentación intenta demostrar, convencer o cambiar ideas. La argumentación se utiliza en una amplia variedad de textos, especialmente en los científicos, filosóficos, en el ensayo, en la oratoria política y judicial, en los textos periodísticos de opinión y en algunos mensajes publicitarios.

Utilizamos la argumentación para justificar nuestros pensamientos o nuestros comportamientos, para persuadir a los demás de nuestros puntos de vista, para influir sobre el comportamiento de los otros, como base para la toma de decisiones.

Característicos de este tipo de textos son los **conectores**, elementos cohesivos cuya función es la de unir ideas, palabras o frases en un texto, estructurándolas de forma lógica y coherente.

Ejemplo: *Though* (1.7): a pesar de

BII. ACTIVIDADES DE COMPRENSIÓN LECTORA:

Responde en base a la información del texto:

1. ¿Qué problema plantea el autor en los dos primeros párrafos? ¿Es su postura optimista o pesimista con respecto a lo que plantea? (l. 5-10)

2. ¿Qué riesgo presume el autor con respecto a la deforestación de la tierra? (l.15-20)
3. Explique a qué se refieren los siguientes datos numéricos:
 - a. 90%:.....
 - b. 50%.....
4. ¿Qué consecuencias trajo la reducción de los bosques en Australia a más de un tercio?
5. En el subtítulo “Impactos de la deforestación”, explique la opinión del autor para cada una de las consecuencias mencionadas y cómo la fundamenta en cada caso:
 - a. Muerte y extinción de pájaros nativos, vida silvestre y biodiversidad:
.....
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.