



Day 4- Fact Sheet 10

Tales of the Todd- Read all about it!

Threats to Wetlands

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Many of the 'wetlands' in an arid zone like central Australia are not permanently wet, and sometimes their function and value is not easily recognised. However threats to these wetlands are just as important as to permanent wetlands.

Human Activities - these include filling and dredging wetlands for houses, commercial buildings, highways, waste disposal sites and other construction projects. Paving large areas with asphalt and concrete increases the rate and amount of surface run off which increases the likelihood of flooding. Development can also cause fragmentation of large wetland systems. For example road crossings disrupt the continuity of a system.

Natural Threats - these include erosion, changes in groundwater levels, droughts, and overgrazing

Wetland Degradation - this includes both natural and man-made pollution from things like pesticides and fertilizers, sewage and sediments.

Consequences of Wetland Loss

- Flooding
- Loss of Wildlife Habitat
- Declining Water Quality