

Day 15 Activity

Tales of the Todd Role Profiles Business and Industry

Role #19 Business and Industry - Mechanic

You have a business which deals with maintenance of road trains and other large vehicles. Your business is not far from the river and the land on which it is located slopes down towards the dry river bed. You provide an essential service for the town and employ several workers. You are a tax payer and your children go to the local school.

Background

Alice Springs is predominantly a 'service' town, with many of the people who live here providing support for local industries such as the cattle industry, tourism and freight carriers. Many of these industries involve large vehicles that need to be maintained, which includes disposing of large amounts of oil based waste.


Effects on the river system

As the town has grown, the amount of waste has also grown and disposal of oil based waste is an issue. Some is either left to drain naturally into the soil, while some is washed away. Some finds its way into the town drainage system. You don't always know how it is affecting the river system until you see an oily film on water after rains or discover grease stains in the sand.

Concerns

With population growth in places like central Australia, better management is needed to make sure the activities of people in the automotive industry don't impact on the river system. People often don't realise that actions they take far away from the river bed itself can be harmful.

If some people in the industry are irresponsible, there may be restrictions placed on everyone that will affect their livelihoods.



Drawing of
"Todd River"
By: Anthony
Age: 8



Role #20 Business and Industry - Real Estate Agents

You are employed as a real estate agent and have been selling property in Alice Springs for many years. You have seen many changes in the housing and property market over the years.

Background

Alice Springs was once a small sleepy little town and people seemed to fall into a couple of categories. There were those who saw Alice as their long term home and had lived in the same house for many years, and then there were those who were here for a limited time and rented houses provided by the government.

As the population has grown and access to the town has become more efficient with better road and air services, more people have decided to buy or build houses. Even people who don't plan to stay for a long time see opportunities in buying a property which they can resell at a profit when they leave. This all contributes to the economy, especially to the building and hardware industries.

Different areas of town seem to become popular as times change. In the last few years, multi-storey flats have been built on the sites of old houses along the river bed, perhaps to take advantage of the views. Names like 'Todd View', 'River View' and 'Alice on Todd' have started to appear and are used as selling points in marketing properties.

Effects on the river system

The river can reach very high flood levels every now and again, and houses built too close to the banks can get flooded.

The way that building has occurred along the river has not always taken into account the natural flow of the river, and man-made banks and channels have diverted some parts of the river. There is an ongoing discussion about whether it is appropriate to tamper with the natural river flow to prevent houses being affected by flooding - even if they perhaps shouldn't have been built there in the first place.

Concerns

If the idea of using the river as a way to market 'river side' properties is taken to extremes, people may try to alter the natural environment even more. Already some of the river bank area close to the CBD is being developed as car parks. There needs to be good planning to retain the beauty of the river so that everyone can enjoy it.



Role #21 Business and Industry - Todd Mall Traders

You run a clothes shop in Todd Mall. You have had the shop for many years, even before Todd Street was turned into a mall. You employ some casual staff when it is busy but generally find that you can only just make enough money to pay for your stock, rent, business licence and services like power and water, as well as paying yourself a small wage.

Background

The shop owners and operators in the Todd Mall have joined forces so that they can have a say about things like their working conditions, rules and regulations, services to the mall and proposed activities.

The main link that Todd Mall Traders have with the river is the provision of parking close to the mall which encourages customers to shop there rather than in one of the shopping centre shops.


When there is very high water in the Todd, it has been known to reach the mall and flood some shops.

Effects on the river system

If too much of the land adjacent to the Todd is converted into car parks, it may spoil the look of the river as well as affect its flow. It could increase pollution from rubbish and also oil and grease that collects where cars are parked which could get washed into the river when it flows.

Concerns

If parking is restricted, people will not be keen to shop in the Mall. Sometimes antisocial behaviour of people camping in the river also deters people from shopping in this area.



Role #22 Business and Industry - Sand Miners

You are a builder and have for years used the sand from the Todd River to mix with cement.

Background

The Todd River provides a good, cheap, convenient source of sand in a variety of grades for use by builders. It can be used for mixing with cement as well as a bed for laying flooring and pavers and a range of other miscellaneous uses. River sand can also be handy for garden mixes.

Effects on the river system

Because of the small size of the building industry, there is not really a noticeable effect on the river from the removal of relatively small amounts of sand.

Concerns

If too many people wanted to remove sand, it could become a problem, especially if the flow of the river is affected. Also the growth of weeds and increase in pollution in parts of the river bed make the collection of clean sand more difficult.

If people collect sand from contaminated areas and move seeds and other pollutants around, this could also become a problem.

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