

CHAPTER 18

Geographical inquiry: Developing an environmental management plan

18.1 Overview

18.1.1 Scenario and task

Prepare an environmental management plan that deals with a specific environmental threat.

There are many environmental changes that have an impact on different environments. Organisations or their specialist consultants often prepare environmental management plans (EMPs). EMPs recommend the steps to be undertaken to solve identified problems in managing the environment. They are also useful for predicting and minimising the effects of potential future changes. These strategies are designed to either remove or control the problem(s).

Your task

Each class team will research and prepare an EMP that deals with a specific environmental threat and then present it to the class. Decide on an environment and the threat it faces and then devise three key inquiry questions you would like to answer.

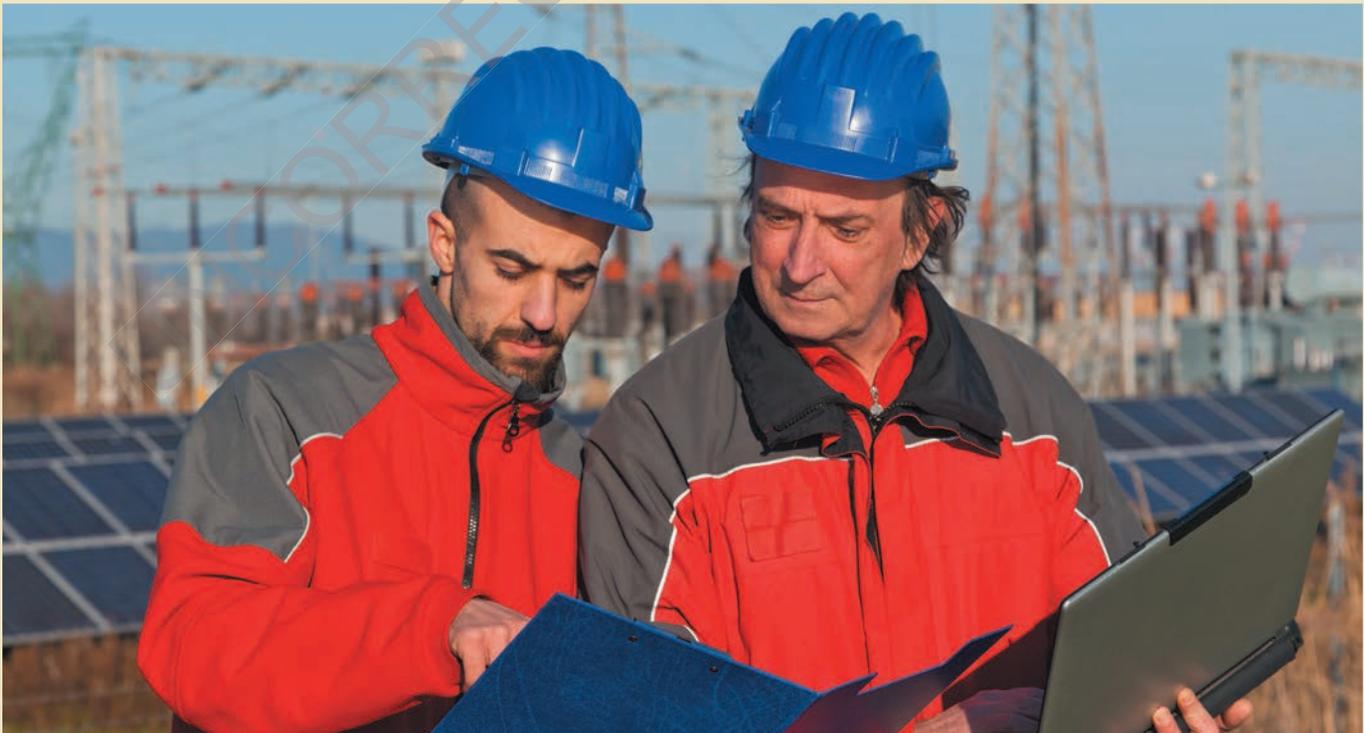
18.2 Inquiry process

18.2.1 Process

- Open the ProjectsPLUS application for this project located in your eBookPLUS. Watch the introductory video lesson and then click the 'Start project' button and set up your class group. Save your settings and the project will be launched.
- **Planning:** In pairs or groups, decide on a particular environmental issue and devise a series of three key inquiry questions that will become a focus of your study and a means of dividing the workload. Download the EMP planning template to help you think about and decide which environments your team will choose to research. Navigate to your Research Forum. Use the research topics to select the environments your team has chosen. The following steps will act as a guide for your report writing.

18.2.2 Collecting and recording data

Find out about the issue and why an EMP is needed. Identify potential environmental threats or changes that may occur. Describe the issue, the scale of potential changes and their significance. Prepare a map, or series of maps, to show the location of the issue. This may be sourced from a street directory,





atlas, Google maps or an online reference. Additional data can be researched and collected; for example, you may wish to survey people's opinions on the issue, use census data to determine the number of people affected in the region or find climatic data for the area. (Your teacher may guide you at this point.) Decide on the most suitable presentation method for your data; for example, graphs, maps and annotated photographs. You may wish to refer to relevant SkillBuilders to help you present your data.

18.2.3 Analysing your information and data

Review and discuss with your team members the information that you have collected. Has it come from reliable sources? What patterns, trends and interconnections can you identify from your data?

Come up with two or three possible options that will address the issue(s) you have collected information about. It would be beneficial to include diagrams and/or photographs of strategies currently operating in different places that could be used or adapted to your site.

Evaluate which option would be most effective based on the criteria:

- economic viability (affordable)
- social justice (fair to all people involved)
- environmental benefit (minimal environmental impact and with future sustainability).

Make concluding recommendations based on your research and evaluation of options. This should be in the form of a suggested course of action to follow in managing the environment and reducing any negative changes.

18.2.4 Communicating your findings

Present your report to the class and be prepared to answer questions from the audience. Use the EMP template to help you structure your report. Use graphics such as maps, graphs, images and charts in your EMP.

18.3 Review

18.3.1 Reflecting on your work

Review your participation in the production of your EMP by completing the reflection document in your Media Centre.

Print out your Research Report from ProjectsPLUS and hand it in with your EMP and reflection notes.

Your ProjectsPLUS application is available in this chapter's Student Resource tab in your eBookPLUS. Visit www.jacplus.com.au to locate your digital resources.

Suggested software

- ProjectsPLUS
- Microsoft Word

Media Centre

Your Media Centre contains:

- an EMP planning template
- an EMP template
- a reflection document
- weblinks to research sites
- an assessment rubric.

