

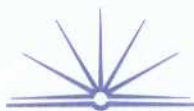


Coral reefs found off the coast of Queensland are ecosystems that are put at risk everyday due to the human impacts that affect them.

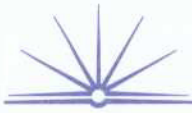
Firstly, these reefs are visited everyday by tourists and sightseers who want to see the reefs natural beauty. Although, due to human impacts, the beauty of the reef and the sustainability of the reef may not last much longer. By treading on the coral beds, ~~and~~ breakage can occur. Coral is like any other living organism and if it is injured, there is a possibility that the coral could die. Also, by taking the coral out of the water and placing it somewhere else, the habit that the coral may be placed in may not be one that provides sufficient food and nutrient resources to it. It's not only tourists that can damage the reef's



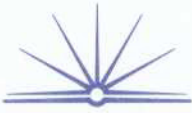
but also local activities. If pipes that contain sewage and other waste run into the sea, it's not only the reefs that are damaged but the surrounding marine life as well. Like any other habitat there is a food chain and the extinction of one species ^{of fish} ~~fish~~ ^{marine life} could bring about the lack of food and beneficial nutrients normally supplied to the coral. Pipes that run through the water can also cause problems to the reef. If the repair of these pipes ~~is~~ is neglected, the joints and connections of these pipes become rusty and eroded and subsequently can lead to the outpouring of waste into the water. Many times these dispersions start off small, but continual outpouring of these wastes results in a very large pollution problem and the life of the coral is put in jeopardy.



Another ecosystem that can be put at risk by the impacts of humans are dry sclerophyll forests. These forests can be found throughout the national parks of the blue mountains. These forests often attract sight-seers, therefore pollution can be a problem. Often discarded rubbish such as plastic wrappers and bottles are found littered through the various walking tracks that the forests have running through them. These plastics take many years to break down and are often dispersed deeper into the forest when strong winds occur. This takes away from the natural beauty of these forests. Also, through human negligence, vegetation is trodden on by un-thoughtful people who don't stick to the paths. When people build their homes next to a dry sclerophyll forest, they are often



taking down large areas of trees to make way for their housing needs. Many species of trees are becoming extinct due to humans taking down more trees than they need to. Often times, residents sewage is discarded of into local rivers and streams that run through the heart of the forests. These streams can often contain algae due to the rise in bacteria levels caused by human sewage. These ~~water~~ streams are often used by local wildlife which will either cause the wildlife to become sick and die or the wildlife will be forced to move to ~~an~~ an unfamiliar habitat just so water becomes available. Unfortunately, due to the negligence of many humans, ~~and~~ negative impact is occurring to various ecosystems and the nature and rate of change is accelerated, in oftentimes, to a negative outcome for the



ecosystem. Many times, the change has occurred in an ecosystem either cannot be ~~the~~ rectified or it takes many years of strict rehabilitation methods to bring the ecosystem back to a level where it is easy to sustain it.