Nation Building

Australia as a Nation

(Nation building includes the periods after the 1st and 2nd world wars)

January 1, 1901 is the date that the separate colonies (states) of Australia federated, or joined, together to form the commonwealth of Australia. The purpose of this was to develop a powerful and unified nation. Now that the government had control over Australia, issues, such as the state of the environment, came under their control.

Some people saw the Australian environment as a canvas on which to build a nation.

There was still belief that humans could control and dominate nature.

National parks were further developed through growing concerns for protection and conservation of native species, the land was seen as useful if kept in a sustainable condition for recreation and other commercial opportunities. However, it was difficult to gain action on problems associated with the land even though issues were widely recognised.

The development of recreational land was needed. Recreational impacts have increased as greater disposable income; shorter working hours and technological improvements have led to tourism and recreation in the outdoor environment becoming a major industry. Resulting in more people wanting to interact with the environment without knowledge of minimal impact practices. Australia’s tourism also boomed.

We saw the return of the soldiers from WWI and WWII during this time. This time period involved major infrastructure developments such as railways, freeways, large-scale energy projects and large-scale manufacturing. Returning Vets and immigration provided the work force to help with the construction of these.

The population of Australia was still growing rapidly, therefore large scale irrigation was needed. Development of dams started, as there was a growing need for water for crops, animals and people. Roads developed and snaked their way through more of Australia’s diminishing native land. This led to stress on the surrounding outdoor environments. In urban areas air, noise and water pollution became evident. There was a rise in dry land soil saline. Problems with sewerage, industrial effluents and solid waste production were all heavily concentrated, sometimes overwhelming the natural systems ability to absorb impacts without degradation. Urban developments tended to be more concentrated along Australia’s coastal areas or other waterways rather than inland. Therefore, there was a decrease in the health of water systems, this area took a lot of the impact and became unhealthy due to it’s exploitation. Other impacts of urbanisation include the constructions of hard surfaces and associated increase in storm water run-off leading to an increase in litter and liquid pollutants and sewage discharge into waterways. Australia’s biodiversity was continually under threat through the decline and destruction of healthy natural habitats, there was also a continual increase in non-native species being introduced.

In the above document please highlight/underline (in different colours) all Interactions.. Impacts… and Perceptions

RESEARCH TASK Part B:

Australia embarked on a number of nation building programs to ensure all the people of Australia could be catered for and looked after. Research one of these, relevant to the area you have visited.

(Examples: construction of the great ocean road, development of dams and power stations, railway lines and stations etc…)

Include pictures/photographs, maps and other images. As well as information about the perceptions, the interactions, the approximate time periods when these events where occurring, and impacts and/or possible impacts (resulting from these interactions and perceptions).

Hint hint….

