

Geography Unit 3

SAC 1b

"In the Murray-Darling River Basin of Australia, water is used for passive, environmental and consumptive purposes. Consumption includes household use, irrigation and water for livestock. Historically, access to the Murray-Darling Basin began with a framework that enabled virtually who ever wanted to use water for consumptive purposes to do so. Moreover, most of the infrastructure used to deliver water was paid for by governments and supplied at subsidised prices.

The combination of drought and water quality has become a significant issue for waters users throughout the Basin. Events such as drought, algae blooms and increases in salinity provided impetus for renegotiating how to share the water in Murray-Darling Basin. Views on the situation are coloured by location in the Basin. Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria are 'upstream States' and South Australia is a 'downstream State'. "

CSIRO Land and Water – A case study of the Murray-Darling Basin,
August 2000, revised February 2001

In essay format, explain and discuss this extract with reference to current management practices in the Murray Darling Basin and the management plan proposed by John Howard, "A National Plan for Water Security", 25 January 2007

Time allocation – 100 minutes

Submit your essay plan and final piece.