



Term 1, Lesson 4

# Threats to Wetlands

---

## Learning Objectives:

1. Describe the threats to wetland environments.

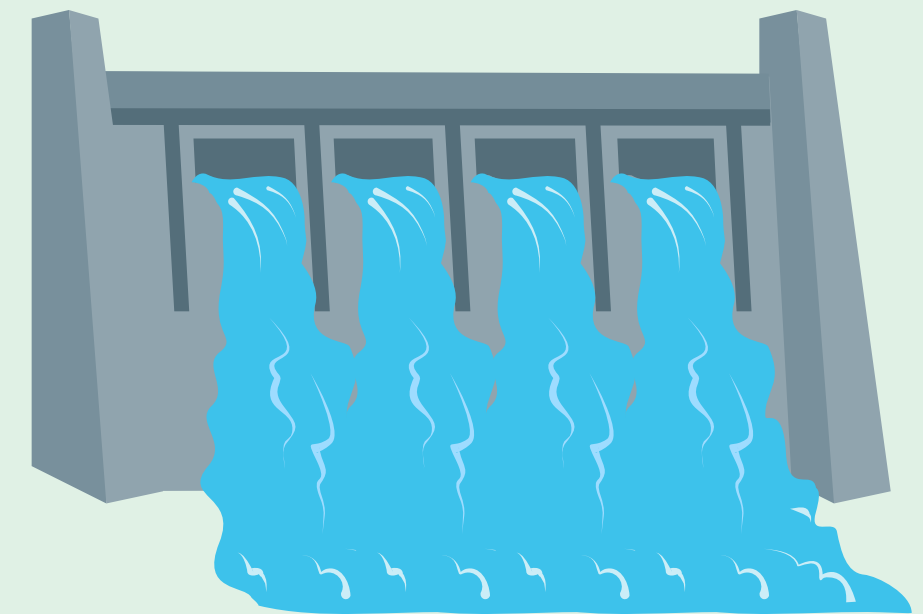


Photo credit: Dr. James Van Dyke

# Threats to wetland environments

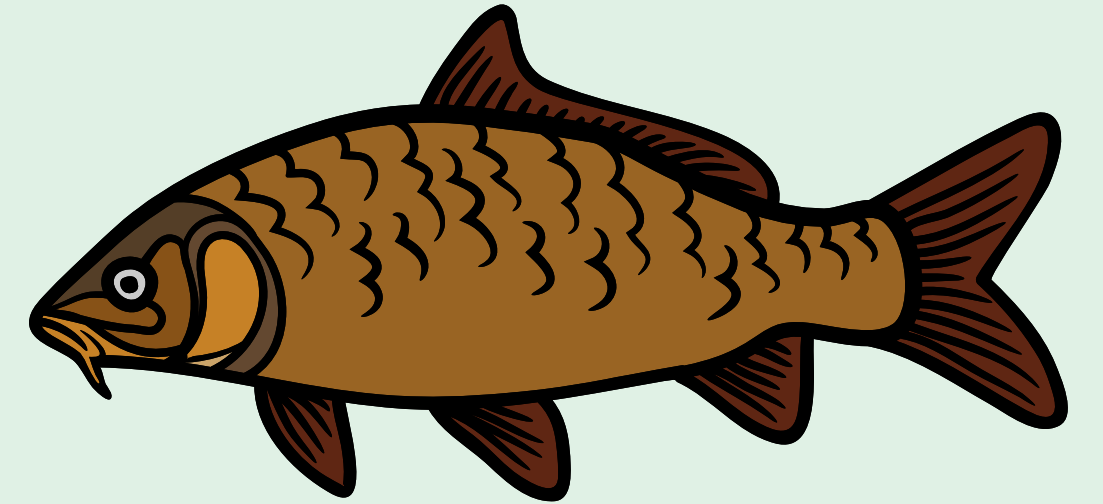
**Habitat loss and degradation** - urban development, agriculture and infrastructure contribute to the alteration and destruction of wetlands.

**Water extraction and altered hydrology** - Altered water flow such as river regulation and the construction of dams can impact the availability and timing of water inputs into wetlands.

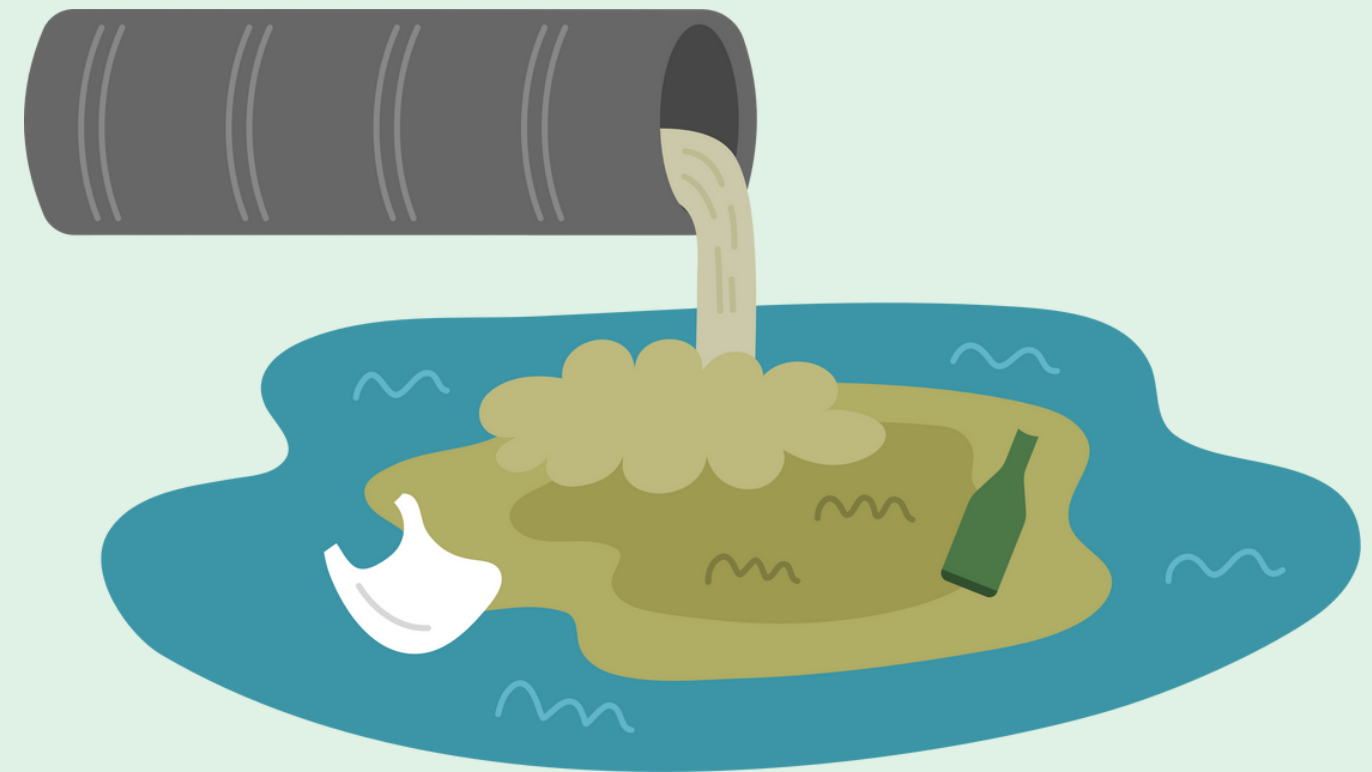


# Threats to wetland environments

**Invasive plants and animals** - outcompete native flora and fauna, disrupt natural ecosystems and may alter the structure of wetland habitats.



**Pollution** - nutrients, chemicals and sediments can lead to water quality degradation.



# Threats to wetland environments

**Climate change** - influences temperature patterns, precipitation levels and the frequency and severity of bushfires.



**Livestock** - trample riparian vegetation and disrupt soil structure leading to riparian erosion and increased sedimentation.



# Classroom Activities

## Activity 1 -

- In groups, research one of the threats to wetland habitats.
- Propose ways to mitigate the threat.
- Present your findings to the class.

