

Australian environmental history



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Australian Environmental History The environment status in Australia has been a concern and a focus on development and conservation. It is evident with environmental matters are focused in most political agenda. The nature of the Australian Environment had influenced by the European settlers (e. g. Britain) being evident with the change in the environmental philosophy of the settlers. The lengthy era from the first advent of human being, 50-60000 years ago, throughout which there were enormous transformation in the environment. Interest expanded and diversified rapidly from the 1970s. Forest history and heritage studies have received considerable attention in both the academic and public domains.

Relationship between European or Western cultures influenced much in the environmental management and way of life. 'The visions of environment combined with the balance of power relationship within colonial society are reflected in the development of a public policy framework for resource user and environmental management from the mid 19th century' (Dover 1994, p. 5-78). The exploitative legislation and protective legislation are which involves the land grants for the settlers and the rights of distribution of mineral and water. With these two paradigms, political struggle is present which needs some clarifications. Exploitative legislation focuses more on the resource development and some specific developmental projects which take advantage of the current environmental status to serve the end users and meets their needs. Whilst, protective legislation is in contrast to the exploitative legislation which embodies the knowledge of conservation planning and protecting the general environmental state for maintenance and storing up what is natural and upkeep the balance in nature.

Eras in Evolving Australian Environmental Vision:

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1.) Exploitative Pioneering. The utilisation of Australian nature for the purpose of establishing financially viable fundamentals to its colony and endow with a return on venture from Britain and assemble the power of empire. The growth of the colonial Australia was strongly attached to the requirements of British Empire. With these principles, nature should be tie together to human ends and made it more productive for the industrial revolution. The idea of asserting functional aim for science, this aims for the domination over nature associated with the general interest.

2.) National Development and Wise Use of Resources. This served a key factor in changing the Australian culture; its political constitution, economy and environmental management. The wise use of nature had helped Australia's settings to initiate a proper distribution of natural resources. This includes land alienation for forest conservation conflicts, proper water management projects, land distribution, and the general nature conservation which is essential to utilitarian for protecting the flora and fauna - maintaining public ownership and the proper exploitation of resources for the national benefits.

3.) Modern Environmentalism. The increase of importance shown by Australian to its environmental resources when these concerns are brought in to political agenda. With this, the assimilation of conservationism in the world view of the Australian culture. This concerns the relationship between human and the environment, protecting and conserving nature. The new philosophy of environmentalism equips the society of the proper conduct towards nature, the beliefs and ethics applied. This linked to the social changes in the western world which then boosted their economical growth immigration and national development.

The environmental concerns in Australian society has been and important subject and has now been served as a national symbol of being a nature friendly society. The political and traditional concerns are important in many aspects with the natures' landscape. This effort is generally relative to the political and social dimensions - the challenges and proper attitudes towards nature.

References

Dovers, S. 1994, Australian Environmental History. Essays and Cases

(Chapter 4:

Evolving visions: environmental management and nature conservation in Australia), Oxford University Press, Melbourne.