



Year 4: HASS

Activity - Timeline of environmental change in Tasmania

Hydropower development	Years	Environmental awareness
	1960s	The modern environmental movement had its basis through increased awareness of the benefits of environmental management and biodiversity.
The Hydro-Electric Commission proposes construction of the Middle Gordon Power Scheme, resulting in the flooding of Lake Pedder.	1967	Public opposition to the Middle Gordon Power Scheme escalates with protest and international opposition.
	1972	United Tasmania Group, the world's first Green political party is established in Tasmania, largely in response to the flooding of Lake Pedder.
Construction of the Gordon Dam is completed as part of the Middle Gordon Power Scheme.	1974	
The Hydro-Electric Commission proposes construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam.	1978	Public protests and opposition to the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam escalate significantly.
	1982	The proposed Gordon-below-Franklin Dam site is occupied by protesters gaining international attention. The area in which the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam was proposed was declared a World Heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
The Tasmanian Government authorises construction work to commence on the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam. Work on the scheme ends as a result of the High Court decision.	1983	The Commonwealth Government enacts the <i>World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983</i> , to prevent the construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam. The Commonwealth Government seeks an injunction (a ruling) to stop construction of the Gordon-below-Franklin Dam. The High Court validates the Commonwealth Government's power to make laws that protect matters covered by international treaty obligations (i.e. World Heritage Areas).
Large scale fish kill (die off of fish populations) in the Pieman River below Reece Dam prompts the development of a dedicated Environmental Management program and Environment Policy within Hydro Tasmania.	1992	
Out of the days of environmental conflict came a deepened commitment by the Hydro to environmental planning, revegetation and site restoration.	1999	Australia's main national environmental law, the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (the EPBC Act) comes into force. It provides a legal framework (rules) to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places.