Understanding conservation

As humans, we have the ability to understand the consequences of our actions.

We are capable of learning about our impact on the world around us and how to reduce these impacts.

Sustainability: Able to Sustain

Sustainability means the ability to continue to exist. If something can recover or regenerate on its own, we call this *sustainable*.

Using sustainable practices means not taking more than can recover on its own.

Can you think of something that is NOT sustainable?

Examples include: not recycling,

using coal for energy, over fishing,

wasting food and water etc.

Can you think of something that IS sustainable?

Examples include: use sun or wind

for energy, recycling, growing food

collecting rain water etc.

Environmental problems: threats to wildlife

Threats are things which affect an animal's chance of survival. Some threats could be to an animal's food, water, or shelter.
Other threats could affect the animals directly, such as being eaten or hurt by a natural event.
Each species faces its own threats.

What is a threat that your animal ambassador might face?

Examples include: Habitat loss,

becoming roadkill, no available

place to breed, feral predators,

climate change etc.

Threats and Solutions

The following table shows some of the main threats to our Australian wildlife.

Pollution	Pollutants (pesticides, herbicides, etc.) and litter in the environment are eaten by a wide variety of organisms or contaminate their environment.
Over-exploitation of resources	Exploitation of wild populations for food has resulted in population crashes (over-fishing, for example).
Vegetation clearing	The clearing or splitting up of vegetation from all habitat types by humans to use the land for agriculture, development of towns and cities, construction of dams, mining, logging, or other purposes.
Introduced species	Accidental and intentional introduction of non-native species into areas never before occupied by the species. This resulted in the extinction of many native species.
Climate change	Human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, have altered the Earth's atmosphere and have resulted in global climate changes.
Hunting, poaching, and illegal Trade	Some endangered species are targeted for their value on illegal markets.
Accidental deaths	Car hits, window collisions (birds), collisions with ships (whales).
Extreme natural events	Bushfire, heatwaves, prolonged drought, floods, cyclones.

Each of these threats (or environmental issues) are explained in more detail on the Powerpoint. There are also some solutions listed.

Conservation Comprehension

Choose one of the threats in grey to become a mini expert in. You can research as a group or individually.
Use the PowerPoint as a resource to start your research. You can also use a device or books to help answer the following questions.

Chosen threat _____

Give 2 examples of how this threat looks. Explain the impacts it has on wildlife.

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Explain 2 solutions for how to manage these threats to wildlife (specific to the examples you listed above).

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Narrative task: wildlife are survivors

Choose an Australian animal species to write a short narrative about.

Your chosen species will face and survive several threats in their lifetime.

Your task is to write about their journey and how they survived one of

these threats.

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Animal Crossing

When a road is built through a habitat it causes fragmentation. This means the parts of a habitat become separated into pieces. Animals need to be able to move across their habitat to get to water and food, to get to mates, and to escape predators or other threats.

A highway is extremely difficult for most animals to cross safely, especially if "safety fences" have also been put up.

Choose one of these native animals

Feathertail Glider

Golden Tree Snake

Red-necked Wallaby

Do some research about wildlife crossings (also called animal bridges or fauna bridges) to help you design a safe method for your chosen animal to cross a four-lane highway.

There are 4 main types of wildlife crossings:
Fauna underpasses, bridges, Glider poles, and rope bridges.

Illustrate your design and label the special features that you have included. Think about how your animal moves.

Chosen animal: _____

How it moves: _____

Type of crossing: _____