

Australia's Environment Under Pressure: Bushfires, Coral Bleaching, and Pollution

Environment · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. According to the Bureau of Meteorology and AFAC, what is the general outlook for bushfire risk in many parts of Australia for the upcoming season (late 2024 - early 2025)?

- A) Below-average risk due to increased rainfall.
- B) Above-average risk in many areas due to higher temperatures and drier conditions.**
- C) No significant change from previous years.
- D) Risk is limited to only the most remote northern areas.

2. The Great Barrier Reef experienced mass coral bleaching events in 2024 and 2025. What is identified as the primary cause of these widespread bleaching events?

- A) Increased stormwater runoff from coastal development.
- B) Ocean acidification due to industrial pollution.
- C) Heat stress from rising sea temperatures driven by climate change.**
- D) Overfishing and excessive tourism activities.

3. In which Australian state are specific single-use plastic items, including thick supermarket bags and plastic barrier bags for produce, being banned from September 1, 2024?

- A) Queensland
- B) New South Wales
- C) Victoria
- D) South Australia**

4. What significant environmental report, released in 2024, highlighted that Australia's weather and climate have continued to change, with an increase in extreme heat events and longer fire seasons?

- A) The Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report.
- B) The State of the Climate Report.**
- C) Australia's Environment Action Plan.
- D) The National Bushfire Preparedness Strategy.

5. A report by the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) revealed that in 2025, a record amount of threatened species habitat was approved for destruction. What was the primary driver for this land clearing?

- A) Expansion of national parks.
- B) Agricultural development.
- C) Mining operations.**
- D) Urban residential development.

6. The Australian government has a Renewable Energy Target (RET). What is the target for additional renewable energy generation annually between 2020 and 2030?

A) 15,000 gigawatt hours

B) 33,000 gigawatt hours

C) 50,000 gigawatt hours

D) 75,000 gigawatt hours

7. Which Australian state has been significantly impacted by the largest and longest-lasting harmful algal bloom in the country's history, starting in early 2025?

A) Western Australia

B) Queensland

C) New South Wales

D) South Australia

8. According to the 2025 Australia's Environment Report, what trend has been observed in the number of species listed as threatened under federal law in Australia?

A) The number has decreased significantly.

B) The number has remained stable.

C) The number has increased by 54% since 2000.

D) The number has decreased slightly due to conservation efforts.