

# Future directions sample response

**How does globalisation impact on both environmental and social sustainability?**

*(20 marks: 400-500 words)*

The Port Phillip Channel Deepening Project (CDP) allowing for increased international trade has provided insight into the environmental and social effects of globalisation. Globalisation has resulted in new patterns of economic, political and social/cultural activity, especially reliance on information and communication technology (ICT). It has resulted in increased interdependence of capital, products, information, labour, trade, democracy and ICT between countries, symbolised by multinational corporations. The Port of Phillip channel needed to be deepened to allow larger container ships to access the port. The process of deepening, or dredging the bay, has raised significant concerns about long-term environmental damage. However, channel deepening also has positive implications for trade, the economy, employment and community activism.

Dredging to allow for increased trade impacts on the environmental sustainability of the bay. Environmental sustainability involves conserving non-renewable energy forms and avoiding pollution in order to minimise the costs incurred solving future problems. Conservation organisation Blue Wedges that opposed channel deepening claims dredging could disturb marine plant, animal and microbial life through large areas of the bay. For example, a reduction in anchovy populations due to bay dredging could negatively impact the Phillip Island fairy penguin tourism attraction, as 20,000 Phillip Island penguins rely on anchovies for winter-feeding. The penguin parade is reportedly Victoria's largest tourist earner, so reductions to anchovy populations demonstrate negative environmental and economic consequences. Long-term environmental effects of dredging must be addressed to ensure no permanent damage occurs.

Despite evidence of potential environmental damage, there are positive impacts of bay dredging relating to social sustainability. Social sustainability is a combination of social, economic and environmental factors that focus on development that meets the needs of contemporary society without compromising the ability of future generations to also meet theirs. A deeper Port of Phillip will lead to increased global standing as a viable global trade partner, a direct economic benefit of \$2 billion, and increased employment. Channel deepening has also increased community activism and support for alternative political thought. Blue Wedges united 65 environmental and bay user groups to oppose unsustainable development of the bay. The group used their democratic right to protest government actions by taking the federal government to court, holding public rallies and picketing. This greater awareness of environmental sustainability may have influenced fellow Melbournians to elect a Greens member in the House of Representatives in the 2010 federal election. The potential threat to the Australian environment and social life resulting from globalisation has encouraged some community members to demonstrate active citizenship and social solidarity by uniting and lobbying to prevent an unsustainable future.

The Port Phillip Channel Deepening Project (CDP) demonstrates the tension between environmental conservation and economic progress. Though channel deepening may disturb marine plant, animal and microbial life, it also increases trade, the economy, employment and community activism. As Australia's global interdependence increases this tension will force the government to employ sustainable practices that do not impinge on the environmental and social lives of future generations.

*(489 words)*