

## Interrogating the URBANISATION exhibit

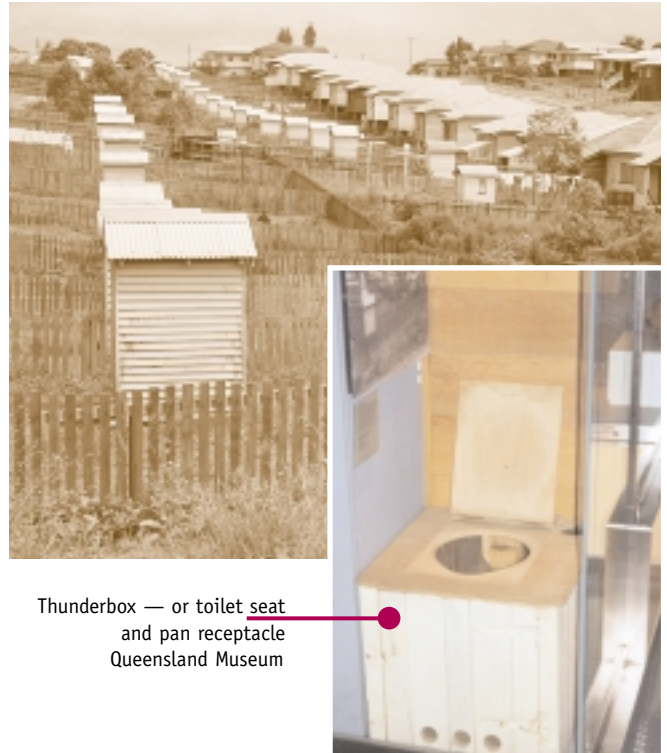
What can we learn from the urbanisation exhibit about the relationship between land and people in Australia over time?

Australia is a highly urbanised society. This has many impacts on the environment. Two of the most significant are on the supply and quality of water, and the creation of waste.

Part of the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition looks at the effects of urbanisation on the environment, and in the case of Adelaide in particular, the relationship between urbanisation and water.

Look at the 'thunderbox' on display in the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition.

- 1 What is it?
- 2 Who would have used it?
- 3 Why are there no water pipes connected to it?
- 4 How would the waste have been removed?
- 5 Would this object be likely to be associated with health issues?
- 6 What would be the main advantages and disadvantages of this method of waste collection and storage?
- 7 Why would it be relatively rare today?
- 8 Why would a museum want to have such an object in its collection?



Thunderbox — or toilet seat and pan receptacle  
Queensland Museum



Wheel fragment of Adelaide's first water cart 1840s  
Made from fallen river red gum  
City of Adelaide Civic Collection

Look at this object on display in the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition. It is a small piece of wood from a water cart.

- 9 Why would a museum want to exhibit such an object?

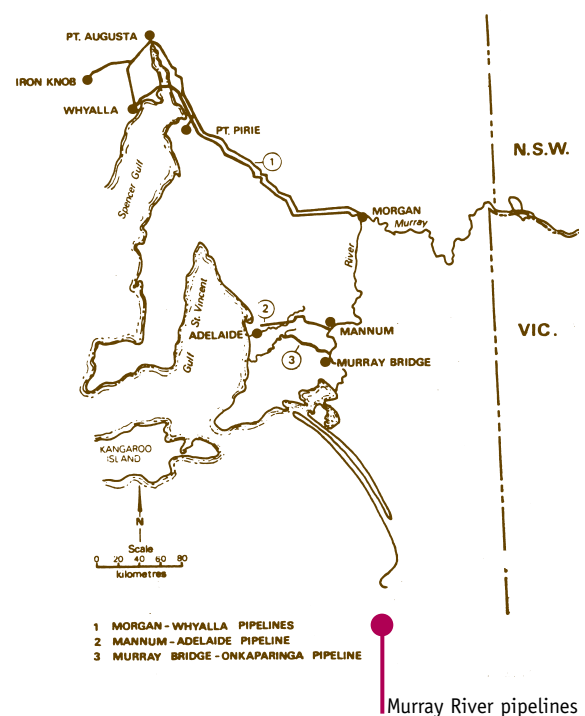
Adelaide has the lowest rate of annual rainfall of all Australian capital cities, but is the closest to Australia's largest river, the Murray—Darling system. Would you expect that to be an advantage to Adelaide? Explain why.

Adelaide draws about 40 per cent of its domestic water usage from the Murray. The Murray—Darling flows through three other states before it reaches South Australia, and each draws water for irrigation and domestic uses.

- 10 Look at this diagram. What is happening to the water flow in the Murray?

The extensive use of irrigated river water for agriculture and horticulture, and for domestic supplies, produces increased wealth for Australia and a high standard of living. At the same time it increases salinity and interferes with the natural environment.

- 11 Go back to question 9. Would you now change that answer?



## Developing your ideas about land and people in Australia over time

A study of the thunderbox and water pipe exhibit in the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition at the National Museum of Australia helps me to understand that:

Aspect	The idea you have developed
Environment	
Sustainability	
Agriculture	
Urbanisation	
Resource use	
Innovation	
Health	

### Sources

[www.atlas.sa.gov.au/Atlas1986/2ENVIRONMENT\\_RESOURCES/8WATER\\_SUPPLY.html](http://www.atlas.sa.gov.au/Atlas1986/2ENVIRONMENT_RESOURCES/8WATER_SUPPLY.html)

## Attitudes to the land

Here are extracts from some people's attitudes towards place, in the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition.

*A rare gem ... lying on Australia's most barren and inhospitable Dead Heart's breast.*

Roma Dulhunty, Lake Eyre (1975)

*There you come home; the magpies call you Jack and whistle like larrikins at you from the trees.*

James McAuley (1969)

*It'll look after us, because we are one and the same.*

Nancy Daiyi (1996)

- 1 What do they all have in common?
- 2 Many of the attitudes you have seen in your investigation of objects in the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition contrast with these. Select three of those contrasting attitudes — why do you think those attitudes might have changed over time?

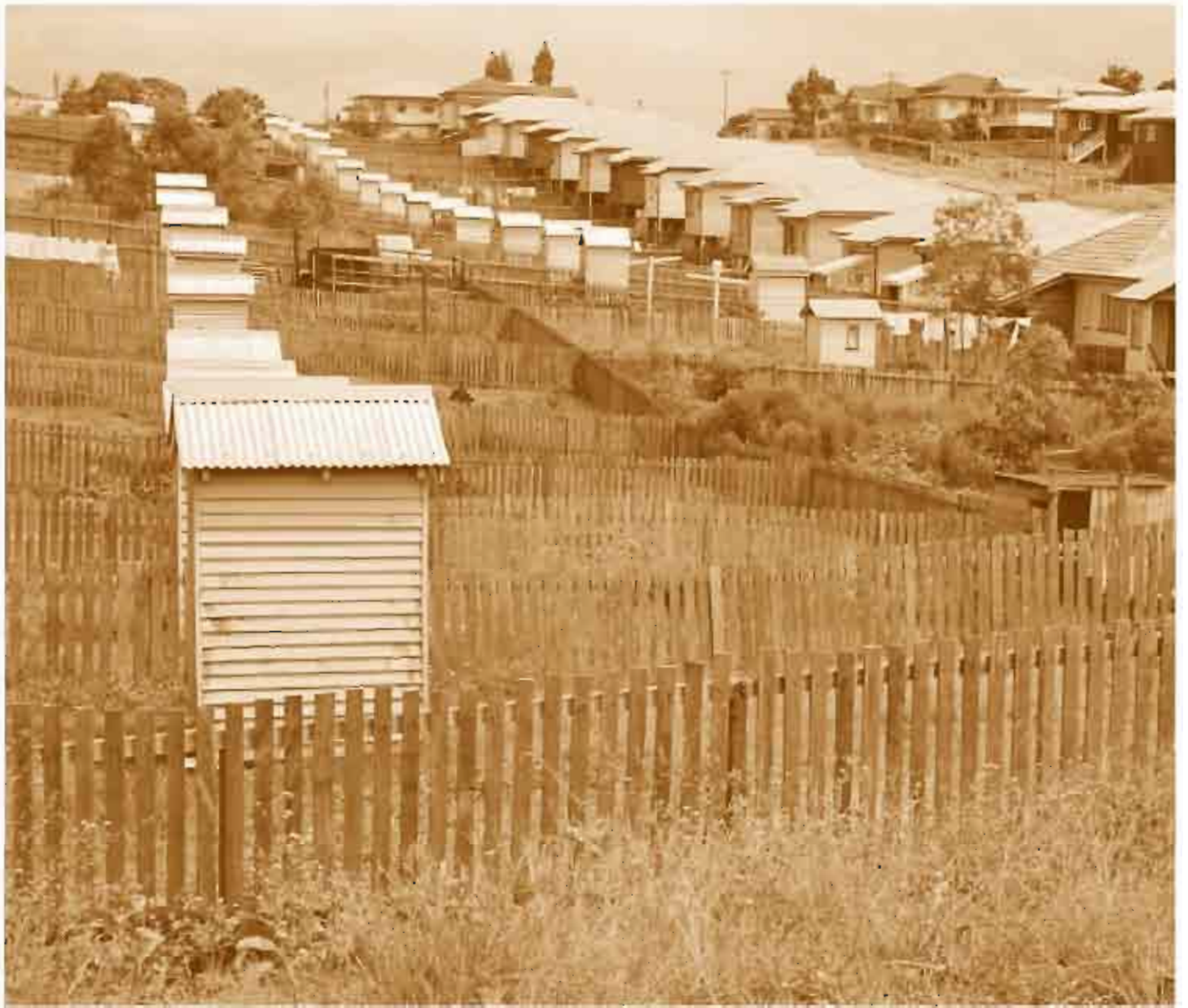
## Conclusion

Below are some of the main themes and sub-themes that are presented in the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition.

- 1 Write your own summary of what you have now discovered about these sub-themes.
- 2 Choose which object or objects from this unit of work best illustrate that sub-theme.
- 3 Imagine that you have been asked to suggest an alternative object to place in the *Tangled Destinies* exhibition for each of the sub-themes. Discuss what objects you might place there. Record your favourites.

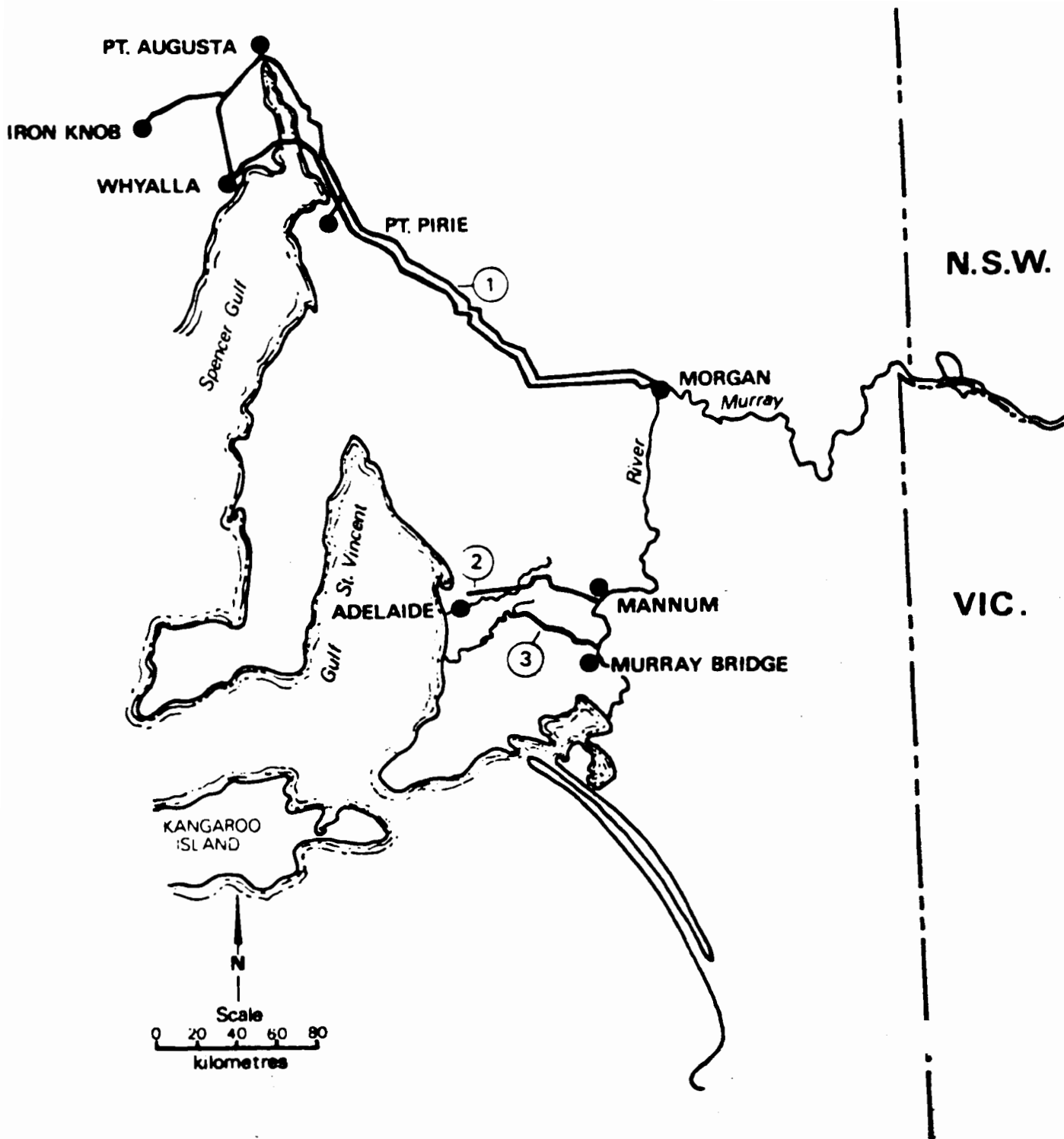
Theme and sub-theme	Key ideas	Object in Gallery	Another possible object
ENCOUNTERING AUSTRALIA Natures of isolation			
Endling			
Biological invasion			
LIVING WITH THE LAND Technologies of necessity			
Cities of the edge			
UNDERSTANDING AUSTRALIA Drying out			
Places of the heart			

- 4 From the material you have investigated in this unit, what conclusions can you draw about the relationship between land and people in Australia over time?









- 1 MORGAN - WHYALLA PIPELINES
- 2 MANNUM - ADELAIDE PIPELINE
- 3 MURRAY BRIDGE - ONKAPARINGA PIPELINE