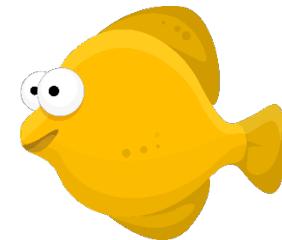


Community Meeting - Student Worksheet

Scenario: You are living in the small rural town of Palms whose main business is wheat and sheep farming. The area has had minimal rainfall for the last five years and has been declared a drought zone. The local community has come together to discuss the following point:

The possibility of developing an irrigation scheme by drilling into a newly discovered freshwater aquifer. This aquifer is located close to the town and is not too deep so it will be easy to drill down to access it. It is a completely confined aquifer meaning that it does not usually interact directly with surface water. The area that the drilling would take place in is very close to a local salt lake which has quite a fragile ecosystem, including a rare species of fish. The water coming up from the aquifer is likely to be quite warm so if this water enters the salt lake, it would impact on the ecosystem, potentially killing the fish.

Your teacher will assign you a role of one of the people involved in the community of Palms. You need to think about how your character will respond to the scenario (use your imagination to make some parts up, based on the description your teacher gives you). Your class group will then role play the community meeting, with everyone assigned roles of different community members.



Community Meeting - Student Worksheet

My role is: _____

Some questions you might like to consider from the point of view of your character:

- How have I been affected by the drought?
- Do I think I would agree with drilling into the aquifer?
- If there was an irrigation scheme started, would I be willing (and able) to help pay for it?
- How would I feel about the local lake ecosystem and the potential impact on the rare fish species?

