

Question 28 (10 marks)

- (a) Explain a strategy that farmers use to manage the sustainability of water resources for agricultural production. **3**

Riparian zones and filter strips - these are put near river banks where there is a lot of overflow from paddocks and so on. They stop any pollution and debris from making it into the waterway. Fences are also used to stop erosion from stock which also leads to unwanted items washing into the water.

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Question 28 (continued)

- (b) For a soil degradation problem, explain farm management practices that have contributed to the problem and a procedure that can be used to alleviate the problem.

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Soil degradation problems become hazardous to the land, soil and plants if the problem is not eliminated. A problem such as salinity arises from poor landcare procedures such as planting annual crops with shallow roots, taking away natural pastures, lack of ground cover, which causes erosion & the removal of topsoil. Salinity is caused by a rising of the water table and this can be prevented by planting deep rooted plants with a tap root eg native pastures to lower the water table and lower salinity. The area can also be fenced off to allow the pastures to grow and allow no erosion to occur from stock & other animals. Minimal plowing and drilling should also be used to allow the soil to become aerated and allow water to seep through. The use of these procedures will allow the water table to be restored and salinity maintained.

End of Question 28