- With no rain for over a year, the land becomes barren = soil erosion
- Crops fail, feed prices rise
- Prices of energy soared. Water bills were expected to rise by 20% in 2008 •
- Wiped 1% of Australia's economy •
- Cattle are dying (10,000 per day some estimate many have to be shot by farmers....) •
- Livestock have to be sold off but at rock bottom prices as over-supply
- Some farmers have had no income for 3 years (Dec 2014)
- Other local businesses in area also suffer as farmers' incomes plummet
- Six-fold increase in number of suicides among farmers (1 every 4 weeks)

Australian bushfires can be particularly severe as eucalyptus trees contain large amounts of oil which can burn very fast and very hot. Other human management factors which have contributed to the severity of bushfires include high fuel loads, a change from fire prevention to fire-fighting measures, and not building adequate buffer zones to protect built assets (Nairn Inquiry, 2003). As Australians learn to understand more about bushfires, bushfire prevention strategies are being adopted.

Responses:

- Suicides increase among farmers •
- \$100m (£53m) in drought assistance from the Australian government loans will be cheaper
- Detailed list of water restrictions with alerts given as to severity. Includes rules over use of hoses, sprinklers, swimming pools, grey water etc
- Melbourne is building a desalination plant which should provide water for C3 •

General management strategies:

- lotesal ternare them narrower and deeper in order to reduce the amount Reduce the surface area of reservoirs of evaporation so water can be
- Water service restrict
- Reset on Son nonessential uses
- Improvements in water systems (for example, leak detection, lining of transmission canals)
- Emergency sources of supply (for example, emergency interconnections, drilling new wells)

Management

The government announced a \$10 billion national water management plan in 2007. It will build on work under two other organisations; the Living Murray Initiative and Australian Government water fund.

Hard Engineering

- Lake Brewster Water Efficiency Project- it aims to improve Lake Brewster for storage on the Lachlan River in New South Wales (building an embankment to split the lake, deepening of the channel, creation of 2 wetlands).
- Numerous water smart projects involving smart technologies are being discussed including the Lake Brewster Water Efficient Project.