



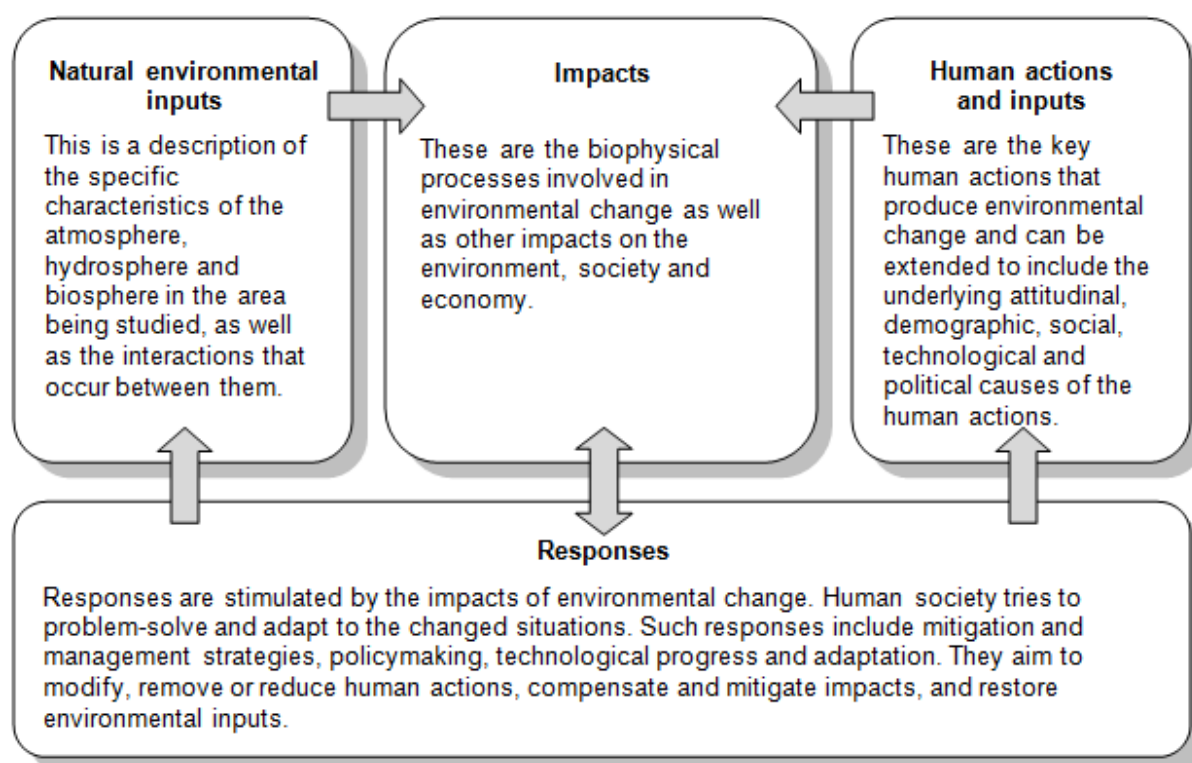
Core units: Exemplar – Year 10

Illustration 2: Environmental change

## Human-environment systems

Systems which combine both human and natural components to show complex interactions, and feedback between them, are called human-environment systems. The most internationally accepted framework for studying such systems is the DPSIR model (drivers, pressures, state, impact, response). This framework for human-environment systems recognises the human activities which place pressure on the environment and how these pressures modify the current state of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere. This leads to impacts on the environment as well as on social and economic systems. In turn, human society attempts to problem-solve in order to remove, reduce or prevent the drivers and pressures, restore the state of the environment and mitigate impacts.

The diagram below provides a modified version of this model which can be used to assess the causes and impacts of environmental change and the strategies implemented to manage them.



**Simplified human-environment system model**

### Activity

Take a virtual fieldwork tour! Use the resource **Lake Monger virtual fieldtrip** in Illustration 2: Environmental change in Year 10 exemplars on the GeogSpace website to take a virtual fieldtrip to Lake Monger in Western Australia to see how the simplified human-environment system model can be applied to a local wetland. Use this as an example of how to conduct your own fieldwork.