

Curriculum Area: Science Level 3/4	Strand: Living World	Background Page: Threats to Ecology
Achievement Aims:	Ecology Level 3/4: <i>Explain how living things are suited to their particular habitat and how they respond to environmental changes, both natural and human-induced.</i>	

Answer Guide

Cause	Effect
Mt Ruapehu erupts	Ash and material ejected into the surrounding area falls into local waterways. This material would pollute the rivers and lakes and kill the organisms living in them.
Storms and flooding	<i>Large amounts of silt being carried into the rivers and lakes.</i>
Silt carried into rivers and lakes	<i>The silt could make it difficult for water creatures to breathe and hunt for food.</i>
Irrigation, water supply and energy production	<i>E.g. upsetting the natural ecosystem.</i>
Rain in urban areas	<i>Storm water run-off can carry pollutants, either chemical or natural (silts), back into the local waterways.</i>
Careful urban development and resource planning	E.g. clean waterways.
Overfishing	<i>Other parts of the food web affected.</i>
Nitrogen in the water	<i>Growth of algae, which makes the water murky.</i>