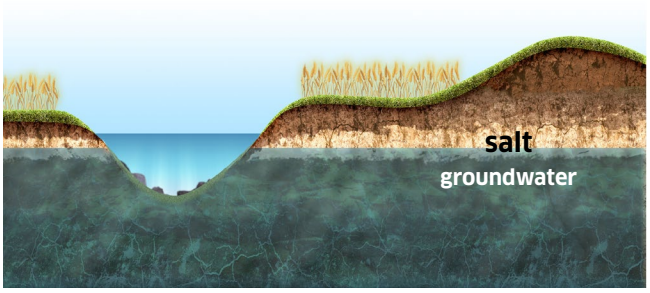
Student worksheet: salinity

Watch the video 'Salt of the Earth'. Then answer the following questions:

Before land clearing

Why do you think the salt layer is where it is?



After land clearing

Why do you think the salt layer is where it is?

The above diagrams show what is known as 'dryland salinity'. Thinking about the diagrams, what is something we could do to reduce this type of salinity?

Research salinity on the Murray–Darling Basin Authority's website:
https://www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/salinity
Also download the Salt of the earth factsheet from the bottom of the webpage.

a. What is the natural way that salt could leave the Basin's rivers?

b. What do you think might be reasons that this doesn't happen as it should?

Draw a labelled diagram (or diagrams) of how salt interception schemes work.

How much salt was taken out of the river in 2015 to 16?

By about how much have salt management strategies reduced salinity over the period 1980 to 2015?

Imagine that you are a fruit farmer with a property on the river near Loxton. It's a low rainfall year and all of the upstream salt interception schemes are out of order. Describe the effect that this would have on your farm and household.