



What is QESSI?

Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) is a joint initiative of the Australian and Queensland Governments with the aim of encouraging all Queensland schools to become environmentally sustainable.

The initiative provides an holistic approach to environmental education and supports schools to integrate sustainability across all areas of operation and education. QESSI does not seek to replace other environmental education initiatives in schools. It is an alliance approach to support existing environmental education programs in schools.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC) in partnership with Amaroo Environmental Education Centre (Amaroo EEC) have formed the Darling Downs QESSI Hub to support Sustainable Schools in the Darling Downs and south-west Queensland region.

Benefits of Participation

Educational benefits:

- Real-world learning projects
- Facilitates cross-curricular learning opportunities
- Caters for a variety of learning styles
- Promotes student engagement and ownership
- Links with mentors and technical staff
- Professional development for staff
- Membership of a learning community
- School visits by QMDC and Amaroo EEC staff to assist with program planning or delivery

Social benefits:

- Promotion of student responsibility, leadership, collaboration and teamwork and improved student self-esteem and presentation skills
- Enhanced health and wellbeing of staff and students – reduction in absences
- Enhanced satisfaction within the parent and wider communities
- Promotion of active involvement of parents and families
- Partnerships with external organisations and local community

Environmental benefits:

- Reduction in litter and generation of waste
- Reduced energy consumption
- Reduced water consumption
- Enhanced school biodiversity values

Economic benefits:

- Savings in utilities expenses through reductions in energy and water consumption
- Savings through reductions in resource use such as paper
- Enhanced appeal in awards and grant applications through participation with a nationally recognised program





School Participation

School activities will focus on one or more of the following key sustainability and natural resource management themes:

- Biodiversity
- Energy use
- Water use
- Waste

What the activities will look like is different in each school. School participation in Sustainable Schools is flexible, which ensures relevance to a particular region and context.



With the support of the Hub school participation can include a mix of:

- Programs and activities that are currently in place in the school community e.g. Keep Australia Beautiful – Green and Healthy Schools, Special Forever
- Implementing and supporting new projects and activities that achieve multiple outcomes
- Developing School Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs)
- Building partnerships and establishing mentoring relationships
- Improving the capacity of all involved through activities such as teacher professional development



For More Information

QMDC

Toowoomba: Renee Fletcher, reneef@qmdc.org.au, Ph 46376270

Goondiwindi: Pip Bagshaw, pipb@qmdc.org.au, Ph 4671 7900

Amaroo EEC

Toowoomba: Ross Brown, admin@amarooeec.eq.edu.au, Ph 4696 7140

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