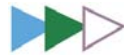




Expression of Interest



## Expression of Interest to become an Earth Smart Science school in 2010

### What is the Earth Smart Science program?

The Earth Smart Science (ESS) program is an election commitment of the Queensland Government to expand the number of environmentally sustainable schools in the State from 60 to 1000 by 2012. This also includes Education Queensland's declaration of 2010 as the Year of Environmental Sustainability. The ESS program will be implemented through the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable School Initiative (QESSI) regional hubs. ESS will focus on a whole-of-school approach to environmental sustainability. Schools will be supported to develop and implement School Environmental Management Plans (SEMPs) and reduce and monitor their ecological footprint. All state primary schools in Queensland will be required to participate in the ESS program by 2012.

The Queensland Murray-Darling Committee is seeking expressions of interest from 15 state primary or P-10 schools in South West Queensland to participate in 2010. (Includes the Downs, Warwick and Roma Education Districts). Please direct any questions to Renee Fletcher (4637 6224) or Pippa Bagshaw (4671 7900).

**EOIs are due by 5.00pm, Friday 4 December 2009**

### Send by email, fax or post to:

Renee Fletcher  
Queensland Murray-Darling Committee  
PO Box 6243  
Toowoomba West 4350  
Fax: 4632 8062  
[reneef@qmdc.org.au](mailto:reneef@qmdc.org.au)

### Benefits of the program

There are a range of educational, social, environmental and economic benefits associated with becoming a sustainable school. Some of these include:

- numerous opportunities to engage students in Science, Maths and cross-curricula learning activities, in an authentic context,
- economic savings in the following areas: waste disposal, cleaning, water or energy costs, dependent on the focus chosen,
- promotion of student responsibility, leadership, collaboration and team work, and
- partnerships with external organisations and the wider school community.



Funded by:





## Your responsibilities as an ESS school

- **Whole school approach** - Adopt a whole school approach, with a commitment from all, including students to participate. Formalise the school's commitment to sustainability by embedding sustainability in school governance processes.
- **Form a team or committee** – The team will be the key drivers of the school sustainability activities. It is recommended the team includes members of staff, students, parents and community members.
- **Professional development workshops and meetings:**
  - Two teaching staff (excluding one teacher schools) must attend the ESS introductory workshop in Term One
  - School representatives participate in bi-monthly teleconference or online school sustainability cluster meetings
- **Undertake audits and monitoring** – With the assistance of your QESSI Hub facilitators at the start of the year conduct a baseline audit to determine the school's ecological footprint and identify what is already happening in your school and areas for further action. Further monitor will be undertaken later in the year to determine changes and improvements.
- **Develop a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)** - In conjunction with your QESSI Regional Hub facilitators. The SEMP will outline activities to be undertaken in all areas of the school to improve your school's sustainability including integrating environmental education for sustainability across the curriculum, particularly focusing on science and maths.
- **Participate in evaluation and reporting** – You will need to provide your QESSI Regional Hub with a brief report (dot points) on the achievements of your school at the end of the school year. Students are asked to provide a short (two minute) overview of the school's achievements using Photostory or other electronic story telling software.
- **Develop community partnerships** – With the assistance from your QESSI Hub facilitators connect the school to the community through productive partnerships to achieve environmental sustainability outcomes.
- **Communicate** – Let your community know the great things you are doing!





## Your QESSI Hub's responsibilities

### Your QESSI Regional Hub will:

- Coordinate your school's involvement in ESS
- Support the school community to:
  - Develop a School Environmental Management Plan, and
  - Measure, monitor and report environmental, educational, social and financial outcomes of your involvement.
- Provide assistance and support to your school through:
  - **School visits**,
  - **Professional development workshops** covering what is a SEMP and how to develop one, essential elements for school sustainability success, conducting audits and monitoring change, curriculum links focusing on Science and Maths, resources and support available, tips to engage the community and grant writing tips. Each school will also receive a resource pack in the workshop including information and books,
  - Assistance to locate and develop **student activities** linking sustainability to the curriculum,
  - Assistance to access **community partners** including scientists and natural resource management specialists,
  - A quarterly **newsletter**,
  - Access to a resource and equipment **library**,
  - Access to remote support such as **online resources**, and
  - Assistance with the **promotion and celebration** of your achievements.

While we will not be able to visit your school everyday we will always be on the other end of the phone or e-mail to answer questions, offer support and share your celebrations and frustrations.





## Earth Smart Science School EOI

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Key contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. What strategies will you implement to ensure a whole of school approach to sustainability?**

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**2. Who will make sure the ESS activities happen and what is their current role in your school community?**

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**3. Who else in the community may be able to help and how will you secure their participation? Who could be a mentor to your school?**

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## Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative EOI

The 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.

School involvement in QESSI will be very similar to that outlined for ESS. QESSI is for schools that are seeking to make a greater commitment to sustainability. In addition to the school responsibilities under the ESS program schools will be required to mentor another school undertaking sustainability activities. In recognition of the greater involvement QMDC will provide additional support to QESSI schools. This will include a small financial incentive to be used for school sustainability activities, a student leadership camp for selected students and increased staff visits if required.

**If you wish to be considered for a position as a QESSI school please answer the following questions in addition to the ESS questions. Schools only interested in the Earth Smart Science program do not need to answer this section.**

**1. How do you plan to support other schools in your region in their sustainability activities?**

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**2. How will you communicate and celebrate your achievements with others in the community?**

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