

MEDIA RELEASE

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Students help Ballandean community lower carbon footprint

Ballandean students are planning to help lower the carbon footprint of their whole community.

The school, with the help of local natural resource body the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (QMDC), were successful in obtaining a community grant awarded through the Low Carbon Diet Community Funding Program, a ClimateSmart initiative of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Ballandean State School Principal Kath Wenban said the students would build on the school's existing sustainability activities and allow students to raise awareness of climate change and sustainability in the wider community.

"We have a chook pen, nine water tanks and a compost bin up and running but now we have even more incentive and motivation to become more sustainable, not just at school but also at home," Ms Wenban said.

"We are now working closely with QMDC and are involved in the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable School Initiative (QESSI).

"This has resulted in a coordinated, school-wide approach to sustainable education and has led to the development of the Ballandean Environmentally Sustainable Team (BEST)."

According to QMDC Education Officer Renee Fletcher, it is important to involve the whole school from the beginning when planning for sustainable education to provide a base for long term success.

"It is also really important to engage the community, which Ballandean State School will do on Wednesday, May 27 at the first Ballandean Low Carbon Diet Challenge workshop," Ms Fletcher said.

"As well as sessions on recycling reusing and energy efficiency for all participants, there will also be a session in the afternoon where parents and other members of the wider community can learn about climate change and home energy audits. The Solar Matilda energy trailer will also be on show, demonstrating power generation through the use of wind and solar."

For more information on the day, contact Kath Wenban at Ballandean State School on 4684 1254 or Renee Fletcher at QMDC on 4637 6224.

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