

Connecting Biodiversity learning to SEMPS and the QUEENSLAND SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS WEBSITE

Education plays an important part in raising awareness, providing inspiration and encouraging on ground action to protect our environment. Improving Biodiversity in school grounds is one of the 4 major themes in Education for Sustainability and is the standout opportunity for students and school communities to undertake hands on grounds improvement activities that are meaningful, educational and environmentally restorative – and give students real life experience of environmental stewardship.

The Queensland Sustainable Schools Website has an Education Centre providing curriculum resources supporting education for sustainability in the four major themes:

- Water
- Waste
- Energy
- Biodiversity

All Queensland schools are welcome to [register](#) to use the [Queensland Sustainable Schools website](#). By registering on this site, you will automatically become a member of the network of schools and their partners across Queensland who have taken up the challenge of becoming a sustainable school. If you have registered for other sustainable schools programs such as Green and Healthy, Reef Guardian, Waterwise, EnergyWise, Wipe Out Waste, Wastewise, Travel Smart, Earth Smart Science, On Holy Ground, Plant Smart programs for schools then the Queensland Sustainable Schools website is the tool to support your school to become more environmentally sustainable.

By joining the QLD Sustainable Schools website you can:

- use a Whole School Approach via the on-line planning tool “My SEMP” to create a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)
- learn about what other schools in Queensland and across Australia are doing and share their knowledge, skills, successes and stories
- contribute your own experiences to help others along the same path

A School Environment Management Plan (**SEMP**) is organized around 5 focus areas:

- Curriculum teaching and learning
- Management of Resources – Energy, Waste and Water
- Management of school grounds including biodiversity improvement
- Integrated whole school planning
- School and community partnerships

The [Sunshine Coast QESSI Hub](#) (**QESSI** – *QLD Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative*) has been responsible for supporting local schools to reduce their ecological footprint and Educate for Sustainability (Efs) since 2005. Sunshine Coast QESSI Hub has led and contributed to proactive Efs developments, professional learning and research for and alongside school communities and local government through programs such as Energywise, Waterwise, Earth Smart Science, Living Smart QLD – Biodiversity education and Stewards of the Future projects - [Kids in Action](#) and the 2012/2013 Needs Analysis Report on local biodiversity content environmental education.

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