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Sustainable Futures Australia 2004

## Acknowledgments

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The Sustainable Futures Australia team for this project comprised: Peter Cuming, Elizabeth Bragg and Nena Pollard, with administrative support from Martha Dotter.

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Participants of the QESSI Earth Day Forum: see list in Part F of this Plan

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# Charter of Environmental Education for Sustainability

## The Earth Charter

“We stand at a critical moment in Earth's history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognise that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.”

The QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan is based on the Earth Charter philosophy. ([www.earthcharter.org](http://www.earthcharter.org))



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## Charter of Environmental Education for Sustainability

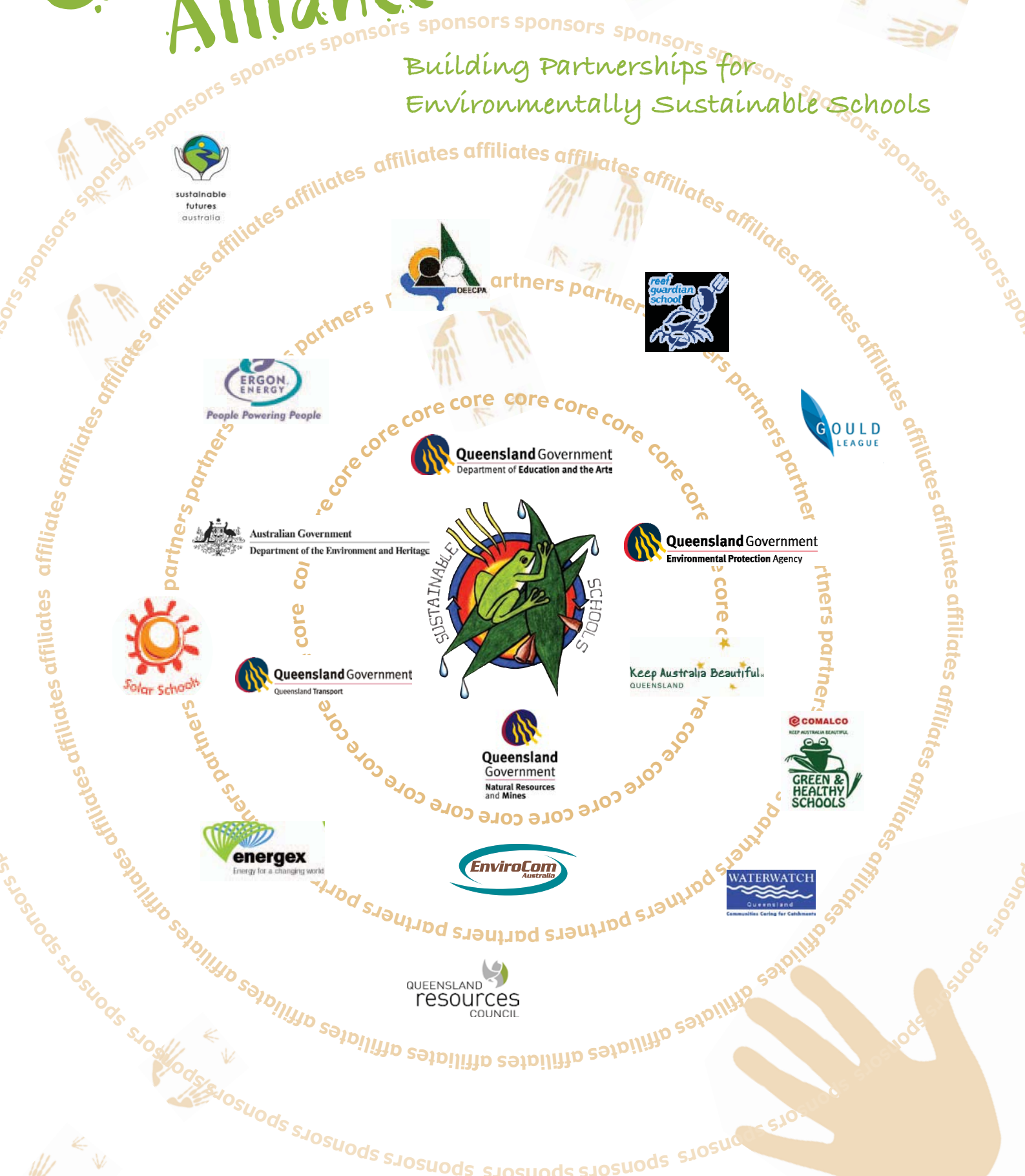
The Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) and the QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan have been developed in the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). The vision of the DESD is a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation.

QESSI has been established as a response to, and part of the Federal Government's National Action Plan: environmental education for sustainability. The Plan has as its focus the effective coordination and provision of environmental education as part of Australia's commitment to ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

QESSI is a whole of Queensland initiative that seeks to meet these global and national objectives and see them successfully applied to, and achieved at, the local school and community level. In this way QESSI embodies the key sustainability principle of "thinking globally and acting locally."

# Qessi Alliance

Building Partnerships for Environmentally Sustainable Schools



This diagram depicts the Alliance members who were involved at the time of this Plan being made (April 2005) - partnerships will grow and change

## Statement of Endorsement

“As we approach the United Nations Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (2005 - 2014), the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) is a fine example of a productive partnership that will address a range of the key outcomes proposed for this decade.

The QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan 2005 - 2007 brings together key stakeholders in the area of environmental education for sustainability, in a schools context, to achieve common sustainability goals. The peak agencies of Education Queensland, Queensland Environmental Protection Agency and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, have forged an effective partnership to deliver an integrated approach for sustainable schools across Queensland.

Significant assistance for the QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan has come from the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage and this plan supports the National Action Plan - environmental education for sustainability.

Other key organisations and agencies have also participated in the development of the QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan. They include; Keep Australia Beautiful - Queensland, through their Green and Healthy School program; Gould League, through their Sustainable Schools program; Queensland Transport, with their Travel Smart Schools program; Envirocom and their Wipe Out Waste program; Energex and Ergon, in their Energy Efficiency in Schools programs and Sustainable Futures Australia, who have prepared the plan and provided the model that it is based upon.

The existing network of Education Queensland's Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres will play an important role in supporting schools in their goal of becoming more sustainable. This will be through programs that focus on working together on energy efficiency, waste minimisation, air pollution and traffic reduction, water reduction and increasing biodiversity through improvements in their school grounds.

The sustainability outcomes of these activities will be useful data for inclusion in 'State of the Environment' reporting at a local, state and national level.

As a combined state and commonwealth initiative that will have significant social, environmental, economic and educational benefits for our entire community, we commend this strategic action plan and look forward to the positive outcomes over the years to come.

For the environment and our sustainable future,

**Queensland Minister for  
Environment**

**Federal Minister for  
Environment and Heritage**

**Queensland Minister for  
Education and the Arts**