

Statement on Sustainability for All Queensland Schools ***“enough for all forever”***

We all have an impact on the environment, economy and people of Queensland. Through systems thinking and behaviour change, our environment can be sustained for the communities of the future. It is imperative that our schools, education systems and our communities play a role now to invest in that future.

Our vision for sustainability in schools is based on that agreed for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development: ‘a world where everyone has the opportunity to benefit from a quality education and learn the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation.’

Sustainability is defined as ‘meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’, or simply as ‘*enough for all forever*’.

A sustainable society is based on a set of values, including:

- respect, care and compassion for ourselves, others and our environment
- responsibility for our actions
- integrity of all life on earth
- understanding and inclusion of all peoples and perspectives.

We base our decisions and our practice on the principles for sustainability, including:

- protecting biological diversity and ecological processes
- taking a precautionary and anticipatory approach to decisions and actions
- striving for social and inter-generational equity
- encouraging and providing for community participation
- understanding the real, overall costs of development
- encouraging wise use of resources
- promoting participation as an active and informed citizen through life long learning for a sustainable world
- embracing creative and innovative approaches to environmental problems.

Our schools approach to sustainability is through:

- governance that supports sustainability policies, procedures and programs
- curriculum that is developed and delivered on the principles of environmental education for sustainability
- responsive resource management and innovation, including utilities, facilities and environs
- partnerships, alliances and networks with government, communities and business
- implementation and evaluation of strategies and actions to reduce the school’s ecological footprint

Schools will contribute to a sustainable society by working together, respecting culture and country, customs, social and environmental values. Living sustainably and making environmentally responsible decisions will leave a positive legacy for future generations.