



Environmental Education Strategy and Action Plan

Government of Western Australia

December 2004

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FOREWORD BY THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental education is not just about learning. It is about understanding the environmental issues confronting our planet and changing our behaviours so we can build a sustainable world for the future.

I truly believe that we will cherish our environment more if we learn to value what we have; understand the impacts of our actions and, above all, work collectively to protect it.

Throughout Western Australia there are many community groups, businesses, state and local government agencies, education institutions and individuals who invest a massive amount of effort into developing and implementing a range of environmental education programs.

These initiatives are to be applauded and the Government of Western Australia supports the efforts of everyone involved. However we can, and must, do more. We must encourage all Western Australians to reflect on their behaviours that impact on the environment and, if necessary, make changes. It doesn't matter if these changes are big or small – they all add up to increased protection of our precious resources as well as building a sustainable future that benefits present and future generations.

The only way to develop a community of environmentally aware, committed and informed Western Australians who will actively seek ways to minimise their impact on the environment is through environmental education initiatives that are well researched and resourced as well as being highly credible.

The Western Australian Environmental Education Strategy and Action Plan aims to build on existing excellent environmental education initiatives by providing a supporting framework as well as recommending specific actions that will result in environmental education being even more capable of helping West Australians embrace sustainability.

This Strategy is consistent with, and closely linked to the Western Australian Government's - *Hope for the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy* and the *National Action Plan – Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future*. It also builds on the numerous global and national environmental education initiatives and environmental strategies such as *the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development*, the *National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* and the international projects of the United Nations Environment Program, including the Decade for Education for Sustainability (2005-2014).

Importantly, this strategy will also help to ensure that all environmental education initiatives are directly linked to the Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy and that they are focused on the prioritised issues identified through the State of the Environment Reporting process.

I have appointed an Environmental Education Advisory Committee to coordinate the implementation of the strategy and also provide Government with specific advice and guidance on important environmental education issues such as resource allocation, priorities and research.

I have asked Mr Gary Hodge, a very experienced educator and administrator to chair the new Advisory Committee and have also invited representatives from State and Local Government, the business and education sectors and the community to join the Advisory Committee.

The Western Australian Environmental Education Strategy and Action Plan signifies the Labor Government's commitment to building a sustainable future.

I strongly urge everyone to support the strategy, to contribute to its implementation and to help build the best possible future for all Western Australians.

Dr Judy Edwards MLA
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Education – Strategy and Action Plan is an action plan for environmental education that builds on *Environmental Education: A Discussion Paper* and the subsequent public submissions and input.

The Strategy and Action Plan sets out a strategic framework for enhancing environmental education outcomes in Western Australia.

The aim of this strategy is not to outline all the relevant environmental issues that should be addressed through environmental education, nor to list all of the existing environmental education programs.

Rather, this strategy establishes a framework of objectives and actions to: better coordinate and prioritise existing environmental education resources and programs; assist in obtaining additional resources and, to provide a strategic approach to developing future initiatives.

Key actions are outlined below under each of the five objectives.

Objective One: Coordination and Integration

1. Establish an Environmental Education Advisory Committee to:
 - provide strategic direction and support for environmental education in Western Australia;
 - oversee the implementation of the Environmental Education Strategy Action Plan;
 - work with the Sustainability Roundtable and Environmental Sustainability Forum to provide advice to the Western Australian Government on education and community awareness for sustainability;
 - foster good working relationships between State and Local Governments, business, community, education institutions and non-government organisations; and
 - identify funding opportunities for existing and future environmental education initiatives.
2. Undertake an audit of existing environmental education resources and programs in Western Australia and provide access to this information through a directory and website.
3. Building on the results of the audit, combine existing environmental education programs into a comprehensive environmental and sustainability resource.

Objective Two: Government Leadership

1. Encourage all Western Australian Government departments to lead by example by participating in Environmental Education programs such as WaterWise, TravelSmart -Workplace or GreenStamp.

2. Encourage all government agencies with Natural Resource Management responsibilities to articulate a clear statement of their environmental education goals and the steps that will be taken to meet those goals.

Objective Three: Formal Education

1. Support and resource environmental education content across the Kindergarten – Year 12 school curriculum.
2. Work towards the inclusion of environmental education in all undergraduate and post-graduate Education degrees.
3. Help ensure that all vocational training, higher education courses and degrees contain a relevant dimension of environmental education.

Objective Four: Developing community commitment to sustainability and environmental protection.

1. Coordinate comprehensive environmental education programs based on the gaps identified in an environmental education audit and the priorities identified in the State of the Environment report.

Objective Five: Building partnerships with industry and business

1. Encourage all industries, both small and large, to play an active role in sustainable development by providing environmental best practice programs and training for employees.
2. Develop partnerships with industry associations representing small to medium enterprises and develop best practice environmental education programs , eg. the GreenStamp program jointly developed by the Motor Trade Association, the Printing Industry Association of Australia (WA), Building Service Contractors Association (WA) and the Department of Environment.

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Sustainability

The Western Australian Government is committed to a whole of government approach to sustainability. Its *Hope for the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy* was released in September 2003.

Through the State Sustainability Strategy, the Government has adopted the following definition of sustainability:

Sustainability is meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

Environmental education is an important tool for raising awareness of sustainability and environmental issues and ultimately, changing behaviour to more sustainable practices. A state-wide, strategic approach to environmental education obviously cannot be considered in isolation from the Western Australian Government's sustainability agenda, and environmental education will, in the future, comprise one important aspect of a broader focus on education for sustainability.

As noted by Premier Geoff Gallop in his foreword to the State Sustainability Strategy, partnerships are central to the process of sustainability. The success of this Environmental Education Strategy will rely on the development of strong and effective Government, business and community partnerships to help deliver sustainability outcomes.

For example, the Environmental Education Advisory Committee will work closely with the Premier's Sustainability Roundtable and the Minister for the Environment's Sustainability Forum to ensure that the Environmental Education Strategy's objectives and actions are closely aligned to their own.

1.2 About this document

Environmental Education: A Discussion Paper was released in December 2000 to gain comment and advice from the broader community, industry, education and government representatives for enhancing environmental education in Western Australia.

A public review period of three months was completed on March 15, 2001. Over 150 written submissions and input from 60 participants at two workshops were incorporated into this Strategy and Action Plan.

The original Discussion Paper and some of the public submissions focused on specific environmental issues. However, it is not the intent of this strategy to highlight the specific areas of environmental education that should be addressed, but rather to provide a framework for greater coordination and a strategic approach to environmental education in the future. Where relevant, the detail contained in the public submissions will be passed on to the Environmental Education Advisory Committee for consideration in any subsequent work.

1.3 Environmental education in Western Australia

Environmental education plays a key role in raising awareness and changing individuals' attitudes, values and behaviour towards achieving sustainability.

As such, environmental education is a significant tool in environmental management and the pursuit of sustainability, alongside more traditional tools such as policy, regulation and compliance.

Western Australia now has a large range of school and community environmental education initiatives and programs which include:

- participatory community programs such as Landcare, Coastcare, Bushcare and Rivercare;
- school based programs supported by programs such as Ribbons of Blue, Airwatch, Waterwise, ECO Education, Bush Rangers and Waste Wise, and
- environmental education and training programs undertaken by non-government environmental organisations and catchment groups.

The existing environmental education programs in WA operate at various levels, and there are many benefits to be gained from greater coordination and integration of these activities. This may include ensuring cost efficiencies, identifying potential partnerships between environmental education providers and minimising overlap and gaps in environmental education programs.

In addition, the Western Australian Government's commitment to sustainability has meant that the context of environmental education should be broadened to a more holistic sustainability focus, where environmental issues are no longer considered in isolation from the social and economic contexts. Sustainability requires integration and coordination across government departments, through all levels of government and via partnerships between community, government, industry and academia – challenges that will apply to the future development of environmental education.

The Western Australian Government is keen to build a community of environmentally aware, committed, active and informed people who will actively seek ways to minimise their impact on the environment, and think seriously about the future.

This strategy is consistent with, and linked to, the *National Action Plan – Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future* released by the Commonwealth Government in September 2000. This Strategy also builds on the numerous global and national environmental education initiatives and environmental strategies such as *the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development*, *the National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity* and the international projects of the United Nations Environment Program.

PART TWO: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION POLICY

2.1 Environmental education - a definition

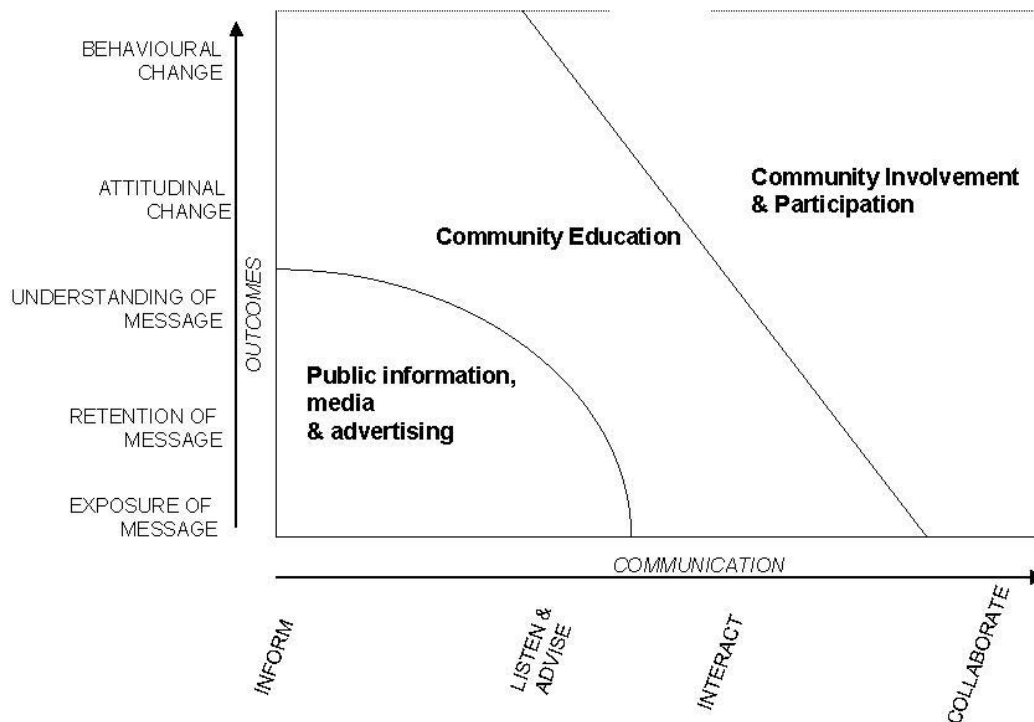
The National Action Plan, *Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future*, defines environmental education in its broadest sense as:

Raising awareness, acquiring new perspectives, values, knowledge and skills, and formal and informal processes leading to changed behaviour in support of an ecologically sustainable environment.

Environmental education encompasses a spectrum of approaches, such as:

- environmental awareness-raising in the media, the Internet and other networks;
- participatory community programs;
- environmental content within the school curriculum;
- school based programs;
- training for industry and small to medium businesses;
- communication of traditional Aboriginal knowledge of the environment; and
- formal education qualifications in areas such as environmental science, management, engineering and law.

As Figure 1 below indicates, there is a variety of approaches that can be taken depending on the desired outcomes and the particular situation, however the goal of all environmental education programs must be sustainable behavioural change.



2.2 Environmental Education Policy

The Western Australian Government recognises that its commitment to sustainability and environmental protection can only be achieved by the combined efforts of the entire Western Australian community. A high priority is therefore placed on maximising environmental educational opportunities and increasing opportunities for community involvement and participation in environmental management and the pursuit of sustainability.

2.3 Principles of environmental education

This strategy and action plan is underpinned by a number of key principles. These are:

- A duty of care to protect bio-diversity and maintain essential ecological processes.
- All Western Australians should be involved in moving our state towards sustainability, either through active involvement or support of that involvement.
- Environmental education must be integrated with social and economic goals and accorded equal priority.
- Environmental education is a key tool for raising awareness and effecting behavioural change to help Western Australians move towards sustainability.
- Environmental education must involve everyone.
- Environmental education must be lifelong.
- Environmental education must be holistic.
- Environmental education must be practical.

2.4 Monitoring, review and reporting

The Environmental Education Advisory Committee will coordinate and oversee the implementation of this Strategy. Director Generals and Chief Executive Officers of relevant Government agencies will be asked to help ensure that this Strategy is implemented.

The Environmental Education Advisory Committee will coordinate the development of appropriate performance indicators for each action recommended in the Strategy. This will improve the monitoring, evaluation and continual improvement of environmental education initiatives in Western Australia.

The Environmental Education Advisory Committee will also annually report its assessment of the achievement of the key performance indicators to the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Education and Training.

PART THREE: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTION PLAN

The following objectives, strategies and actions have been developed to provide guidance to all levels of Government and all sectors of the community for the enhancement of environmental education in Western Australia as a key tool for moving towards sustainability.

OBJECTIVE 1: COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION

To ensure:

- the effectiveness of environmental education initiatives by improving coordination and integration of existing programs
- strategic decisions about environmental education in Western Australia are based on consistent, accurate and timely information about current programs, products and services and best practice.

Key outcomes:

- Community environmental education programs are developed in accordance with best practice and are well coordinated to avoid duplication of effort and resources, and in order to provide consistent messages to the community.

A large number of environmental education programs and initiatives already exist across State Government departments, Local Government Authorities, non-government organisations and other sectors. However, effective delivery of these programs is often hampered by the ad hoc nature of their development and implementation and the lack of communication and partnerships among these sectors.

A priority for the Environmental Education Strategy is to improve the coordination and integration of environmental education programs, products and services. This would ensure that unnecessary overlaps and large gaps in the development and delivery of environmental education programs are avoided. There is also a need to better coordinate access to information about the availability of programs, resources and support for existing environmental education programs.

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Resources
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE</p> <p>Action 1: Establish an Environmental Education (EE) Advisory Committee to provide advice to Minister for the Environment, oversee the implementation of the Environmental Education Strategy and to develop partnerships with key stakeholders.</p>	Minister for Environment	November 2004	Executive Officer 1 FTE (Level 6) Approx \$85,000 for salaries and operational costs
<p>Action 2: Identify and develop partnerships with non-government organisations (e.g. community groups, industry associations, AAEE) and government departments (e.g. DOE, CALM, DET) to provide advice and support to the Environmental Education Advisory Committee.</p>	EE Advisory Committee	Ongoing	Executive Officer

<p>Action 3: Develop working groups, each chaired by a member of the Environmental Education Advisory Committee, to work in specific environmental education areas and projects. The working groups will be established as required and will disband on the completion of particular projects.</p>	EE Advisory Committee	Ongoing	Executive Officer
<p>COORDINATION OF EXISTING RESOURCES</p>			
<p>Action 4: Undertake an audit of existing relevant National and Western Australian environmental education resources and environmental education providers to identify potential partnerships and linkages as well as gaps in current environmental education provision. Include audit of evaluation tools and accreditation processes for environmental education programs.</p>	EE Advisory Committee/ Department of Environment (DoE)	June 2005	Executive Officer
<p>Action 5: Building on the audit, develop and maintain a web site to provide a central point of information and coordination for environmental education resources in WA. Link this website to the proposed One Stop Shop for environmental information.</p>	EE Advisory Committee/ supported by DoE/AAEE	December 2005	\$ 5,000 Maintained by DoE
<p>Action 6: Publish a web-based directory of all environmental education programs in WA.</p>	DoE	June 2005	Developed & maintained by DoE
<p>Action 7: Continue the Environmental Educators' Network (EEN) to allow it to expand its role, linking in to the website, directory and audit of environmental education resources.</p>	DoE	Ongoing	Maintained by DoE in partnership with the Australian Association for Environmental Educators (AAEE).
<p>EVALUATION AND "QUALITY CONTROL"</p>			
<p>Action 8: Develop and promote evaluation tools for environmental education providers to encourage continual evaluation and refinement of environmental education programs in Western Australia. Ensure that the results of evaluations are shared.</p>	EE Advisory Committee	December 2005	Executive Officer / supported by DoE
<p>Action 9: Develop certification / accreditation process for environmental education programs in Western Australia.</p>	EE Advisory Committee	December 2005	Executive Officer / supported by DoE

<p>Action 10: Encourage environmental education providers to work with the Environmental Education Advisory Committee, relevant working groups and AAEE when creating new environmental education resources or the refining of existing resources to optimise opportunities and maximise coordination and “quality control”.</p>	<p>All environmental education providers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Achievable with existing resources</p>
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OBJECTIVE 2: GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

To encourage Government at all levels to develop effective and on-going environmental education programs aimed at raising awareness of sustainability and encouraging responsible environmental behaviour.

Key outcomes:

- Awareness of sustainability and environmental issues is increased and commitment to action is also increased throughout the Western Australian community.
- Western Australian Government Departments lead by example by participating in and supporting environmental education initiatives such as WaterWise, TravelSmart -Workplace and GreenStamp.

Environmental education is another important tool alongside traditional environmental management tools such as policy, regulation and compliance which will help our community move towards sustainability. Government agencies and local authorities have an important role in raising the awareness of environmental issues in the community and highlighting environmental responsibilities and appropriate behaviour.

The three levels of government can each offer different strengths and play complementary roles in the field of environmental education. Coordination and partnership between the different levels of government will be essential.

The **Commonwealth Government** released the *Environmental Education for a Sustainable Future: National Action Plan* in 2000, which is overseen by the National Environmental Education Advisory Committee. Initiatives of the National Action Plan which have particular relevance for this Strategy include: the establishment of the Australian Environmental Education Foundation; communicating the importance of environmental education; improving the coordination of environmental education activities, particularly through the inter-governmental environmental education network; and increasing the resources available to community organisations involved in environmental education.

State Government departments with responsibilities for environment and natural resource management currently undertake a wide range of environmental education activities in both discrete educational programs and ongoing education and awareness-raising within all departmental programs. State Government also has a primary responsibility for education, and as such has a direct influence over the incorporation of environmental education into the curriculum and school practice.

Local Government connections with communities make them a crucial partner in potential delivery of environmental education programs, and general awareness-raising in their communities.

Some Councils are already actively involved in delivering environmental education to their communities, and there are many benefits to ensuring that a consistent approach and an agreed direction for Local Governments is established. This is particularly important to ensure there is not unnecessary duplication of efforts between State and Local Government. Wherever possible, partnerships should be established between environmental education providers and Local Governments in the development and delivery of environmental education programs. Environmental education programs should also consider the particular needs of Local Government staff and elected members for training and awareness raising.

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Resources
STATE GOVERNMENT			
<p>Action 11: Building on the results of the audit (see Action 4), highlight priority areas for developing key environmental education programs and encourage relevant State Government departments to develop appropriate programs and actions.</p>	EE Advisory Committee	Ongoing	Agency budget allocations - State & Federal funding
<p>Action 12: Encourage departments with environmental and natural resource management responsibilities to articulate a clear statement of their environmental education goals and the steps that will be taken to meet these goals</p>	Departments with environmental and NRM responsibilities	Ongoing	Achievable with existing resources
<p>Action 13: Where appropriate, State Government departments should partner with Local Government and community organisations for the development and delivery of environmental education initiatives to ensure the localisation and on-ground effectiveness of programs.</p>	Relevant State Government departments	Ongoing	Achievable with existing resources
LOCAL GOVERNMENT			
<p>Action 14: The Environmental Education Advisory Committee will establish a Working Group that includes WALGA, Local Governments and relevant State Government departments to provide advice on environmental education initiatives.</p>	EE Advisory Committee	March 2005	Executive Officer
<p>Action 15: Building on the linkages identified in the environmental education audit, develop partnerships between relevant State Government departments and WA Local Governments to develop environmental education programs of mutual interest and benefit and produce environmental education resources for Local Government delivery. Refer to Action 13</p>	EE Local Government Working Group	Ongoing	Executive Officer
<p>Action 16: Invite Local Government staff to participate in environmental education training programs.</p>	DoE	Ongoing	Achievable with existing resources

<p>AGENCY SUPPORT</p>			
<p>Action 17: Provide more internal support, resources and training within State Government NRM departments to ensure all projects/programs integrate EE programs within them.</p>	<p>State Government Agencies</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Achievable with existing resources</p>
<p>RESEARCH / EVALUATION OF BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE CAMPAIGNS</p>			
<p>Action 18: Support, fund or pursue avenues for funding ongoing research into Environmental Education in WA.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Ongoingg</p>	<p>To be determined</p>
<p>Action 19: Include surveys of community attitudes and behaviours in the State of Environment Reporting process to determine the effectiveness of all environmental education initiatives.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee/DoE</p>	<p>Dec 2005</p>	<p>Achievable with existing resources</p>
<p>Action 20: Building on baseline research (see Action 4) and working with the Sustainability Roundtable and Environmental Sustainability Forum, determine the feasibility of conducting large-scale community awareness, involvement and action campaigns for key WA sustainability and environmental issues (e.g. salinity, bio-diversity, water quality, air quality, etc.)</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Dec 2005</p>	<p>Executive Officer</p>

OBJECTIVE 3: FORMAL EDUCATION

To ensure that all students, in all forms of education, are provided with environmental education interventions that develop environmental values and understanding of sustainability, as well as the knowledge, concepts and skills necessary to enable them to recognise the environmental impact of their personal and work choices, and to act to minimise those impacts.

Key outcomes:

- Awareness of sustainability and environmental issues is increased and commitment to action is also increased throughout the Western Australian community.
- Environmental education for sustainability is provided to all students in government and non-government schools from Kindergarten – Year 12.
- Environmental education is included in all pre-service teacher education courses.
- Students in all undergraduate and post-graduate courses develop an understanding of sustainability.
- All participants in vocational educational and training develop an understanding of particular environmental responsibilities within their field.

The importance of environmental education in schools, vocational educational and training and higher education is fundamental to the development of the skills and attitudes necessary to help people make sound environmental decisions throughout their lives.

The strong environmental and sustainability values incorporated throughout the Curriculum Framework should be supported in a practical way, by resources, training for teachers and other educators, and demonstration of an integrated approach showing linkages between environmental issues in all curriculum areas.

Higher education and vocational education and training has a key role to play in sustainability and environmental education in WA – particularly in communicating and demonstrating the cross-sectoral nature of sustainability.

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Resources
COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF EXISTING RESOURCES			
Action 21: Ensure that a section of the environmental education audit (see Action 4) is focused on formal education environmental education initiatives and programs, and publish a directory of existing resources for educators.	EE Advisory Committee	Dec 05	Executive Officer
Action 22: Ensure that the environmental education website (see Action 5) has a dedicated section for formal education to allow teachers and students in all sectors of formal education to access environmental education and sustainability programs and materials in a One Stop Shop format.	DoE	June 2005	Met from existing resources
Action 23: Through the Environmental Education Advisory Committee, establish a working group (including representatives from DET, Curriculum Council, Catholic Education Office of WA, Association of Independent Schools, TAFE Colleges and all universities) to provide advice and support to the Advisory Committee on integrating environmental education into formal education.	EE Advisory Committee	March 2005	Executive Officer
Action 24: Encourage environmental education providers who are seeking to implement programs through schools to seek the advice of the EE Advisory Committee and relevant working groups.	Environmental educators	Ongoing	Met from existing resources
Action 25: Producers of environmental education resources should ensure that materials developed can be effectively integrated into existing curricula.	Environmental educators	Ongoing	Met from existing resources
Action 26: Producers of environmental education resources should ensure that any EE materials developed are also supported by effective and accessible Professional Development for teachers and lecturers.	Environmental educators	Ongoing	To be determined

<p>Action 27: Ensure support continues for existing school-based environmental education and sustainability programs such as Eco-Education, Airwatch, Ribbons of Blue/Waterwatch, Waterwise, Waste Wise and so on.</p> <p>Action 28: Building on the results of the Environmental Education audit, combine existing school-based environmental education program into a comprehensive environmental and sustainability education framework for all school students Kindergarten to Year 12.</p>	<p>State Government</p> <p>DoE/CALM/ DET</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Dec 2006</p>	<p>To be determined</p> <p>A Federal Government Grant has been obtained for the development of a Sustainable Schools framework.</p>
<p>RESOURCES</p>			
<p>Action 29: Assign a high level manager/officer in the Department Education & Training (DET) to be solely responsible for formal environmental and sustainability education in WA.</p>	<p>DET</p>	<p>March 2005</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>
<p>Action 30: Assign an officer responsible for environmental and sustainability education in each education district office. Each officer to develop network of interested teachers from schools in that district.</p>	<p>DET / District Directors/District Councils</p>	<p>June 2005</p>	<p>To be determined</p>
<p>HIGHER EDUCATION</p>			
<p>Action 31: Work with WA Universities to encourage them to incorporate a sustainability dimension into all disciplines in all higher education courses.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee Working Group / Universities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Executive Officer</p>
<p>Action 32: Work with the Education Departments of WA Universities to encourage them to incorporate environmental education into undergraduate education degrees.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee/ Working Group / Universities</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Executive Officer</p>
<p>VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING</p>			
<p>Action 33: Work with TAFEs and other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to ensure that sustainability competencies are included in all training courses.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee/Working Group / TAFEs/ other RTOs</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Executive Officer</p>
<p>Action 34: Vocational education and training providers should work in partnership with environmental NGOs, community groups and appropriate government departments where possible to provide practical field experiences and training.</p>	<p>Vocational education and training providers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>minimal</p>

<p>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING</p> <p>Action 35: Establish a recognised and adequately resourced professional development program for environmental educators.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee/ Working Group All EE providers/AAEE</p>	<p>June 2005</p>	<p>Utilise existing resources</p>
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OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOPING COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

To foster environmental education activities within the wider community to help people minimise their impact on the environment and help Western Australia move towards sustainability.

Key outcome:

- Awareness of sustainability and environmental issues is increased and commitment to action is also increased throughout the Western Australian community.

Western Australia is privileged to have many highly motivated individuals, non-government organisations and community groups involved in environmental education programs.

This work should be recognised, enhanced and further supported to facilitate even greater community involvement in environmental protection and the pursuit of sustainability.

Environmental Educators should seek to build further partnerships with individuals, non-government and community organisations in the development and/or delivery of EE programs, to ensure their applicability and on-ground effectiveness.

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Resources
<p>Action 36: Building on the results of the audit (see Action 4) identify the linkages, overlaps and possibilities for partnerships as well as the gaps in current environmental education provision by the broader community.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee / Working Group</p>	<p>June 2005</p>	<p>Executive Officer</p>
<p>Action 37: Ensure that the proposed environmental education website and online directory incorporates community and NGO initiatives and programs where possible.</p>	<p>DoE</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>
<p>Action 38: Ensure that all environmental education programs are developed in a participatory and consultative manner, with the broader community and key stakeholders to maximise their applicability and effectiveness.</p>	<p>All environmental education providers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>
<p>Action 39: Ensure existing community funding (such as State Government Community Conservation Grants) provides for community-based environmental education projects.</p>	<p>Minister</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>

OBJECTIVE 5: BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

All Western Australian industries and businesses are encouraged to develop and implement best-practice environmental management programs and enter into partnerships with State Government, Local Government and community organisations.

Key outcome:

- Industries of all sizes are aware of their environmental responsibilities and are committed to pursuing sound environmental practices.

The delivery of environmental education programs in industry and business offers many opportunities for organisations to reduce their overall environmental impact and improve their long-term profitability. Environmental best practice is a key focus of some businesses in WA, however for most, particularly small to medium industries, it is not seen as a priority.

Industry and business have a key role to play in demonstrating and promoting sound environmental management and a shift towards sustainability by ensuring that employers and employees develop positive environmental values and are provided with adequate environmental training and development.

Representative or peak professional, business and industry associations can help to foster the adoption of environmentally responsible practices in Australian workplaces by adopting comprehensive policies which incorporate a commitment to principles of sustainability. They can also address sustainability and environmental education through their own training programs, workshops and conferences.

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Resources
Action 40: Establish a EE Working Group for Industry and Business Environmental Education to provide advice to Steering Committee on developing industry-based environmental education programs / initiatives.	EE Advisory Committee	March 2005	Executive Officer
Action 41: Building on the results of the audit (see Action 4), highlight priority areas for developing key environmental education programs and encourage relevant industry associations and individual companies to develop appropriate resources.	Steering Committee	June 2005	Executive Officer
Action 42: Provide effective linkages between Western Australian industries and businesses and Commonwealth environmental programs such as Greenhouse Challenge, Waste Wise Construction Program, Best Practice Environmental Management in Mining program etc.	EE Advisory Committee / DoE/Industry associations	Ongoing	Met from existing resources
Action 43: Ensure strong partnerships are formed with Sustainable Energy Development Office, International Environment Technology Centre, Centre for Excellence for Cleaner Production and other relevant organisations.	EE Advisory Committee and Working Group	Ongoing	Met from existing resources

<p>Action 44: Develop partnerships with industry associations representing small to medium enterprises and develop environmental best practice programs.</p>	<p>Working Group/DoE</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>
<p>Action 45: Review all Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) training packages and work with Industry Training Councils to incorporate environmental management outcomes in all.</p>	<p>Working Group / ANTA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>
<p>Action 46: Explore certification and accreditation programs for industries that achieve environmental best practice.</p>	<p>Working Group / ANTA/ Industry associations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>
<p>Action 47: Work with peak industry and business bodies to encourage them to include environmental education in their training programs.</p>	<p>EE Advisory Committee / Working Group/ Peak industry associations</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Met from existing resources</p>

