

R-CV 7: Education for the Next Generation

Develop and facilitate access to school based environmental and cultural education programs.

This strategy delivers on these Regional Themes	Biodiversity	Biosecurity	Coastal Systems	Sustainable Industries	Water
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
This strategy delivers on these Strategic Outcomes	Supportive, policies, plans and regulations	Collaborative, adaptive planning and action	Traditional Owner Benefits	Sustained and diverse resourcing	Community stewardship, values and action
		✓	✓		✓
Outcome	<p>Development of school environmental and cultural education programs will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A long term investment in a more informed and active community; ▪ A cultural change regarding attitudes to natural resource management; ▪ Greater understanding and acceptance of environmental issues and opportunities. 				
Justification	<p>Providing education programs aimed at school aged children will result in a long term legacy of increased awareness and better understanding of environmental and cultural issues. Positive educational messages will result in a cultural change and build a stronger sense of stewardship and environmental connection. Influencing the school curriculum is critical for an informed, active and empowered community of the future.</p>				
Key steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Contact local Education Queensland staff involved in curriculum development to discuss feasibility, options and best approaches for developing and delivering school-based educational programs. 2) Conduct an audit of existing environmental and cultural school educational programs to identify gaps, as well as useful resources. 3) Establish working groups with local teachers, curriculum developers and existing environmental educational facilities to plan the development and delivery of cultural and environmental school education programs across the region. 4) Meet with representatives from local schools to clearly communicate the aims of the program and explain the content. 5) Trial the program at selected schools and, where necessary, adjust the program based on feedback, before more widespread implementation. 				
Feasibility considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Schools provide the perfect setting for learning and sharing knowledge about environmental and cultural issues. ✓ There are environmental / sustainability components to many existing curriculum areas, across a range of year levels, making it easier to expand it to a more strategic and relevant program. ✓ A lot of information already exists and there are some good facilities already involved in school based environmental education programs (eg. several Environmental Education Centres across the region). ✗ Practice change as a result of school based education programs are not realised for many years. ✗ With the already crowded school curriculum, it is often difficult to get schools and class room teachers to commit to including anything additional. 				

Local Landscape Projects	Local Landscape Project	Location
	CN3 and CN4 Schools on Board	Cairns
	NT3 School Environmental Education	Northern Tablelands
	ST5 Environmental Education	Southern Tablelands
	HB5 Environmental Stewardship Through Schools	Hinchinbrook
	RM8 Holloways Program in Gordonvale	Gordonvale School