

2021 to 2024 Action Plan

A Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement between the Minister for Environment and Water and the Minister for Education



OUR AIM: To work in partnership and improve environmental and sustainability education opportunities for public preschool and school students through a combination of broad policies, programs, collaborative arrangements and targeted initiatives.

1 Learning in nature

What we will do

1. Provide opportunities for students to learn through immersive experiences in natural environments including Glenthorne National Park, Adelaide International Bird Sanctuary National Park and the Southern Flinders Ranges. Build high quality learning opportunities within the Adelaide Botanical Gardens, Mount Lofty Botanical Gardens and Cleland Wildlife Park.
2. Work with preschools and schools who are currently incorporating nearby natural environments in their learning – and share this across the education system.



2 Tools for teaching

What we will do

1. Develop and revise classroom curriculum resources to provide specific and authentic advice for the implementation of environmental and sustainability learning across the Australian Curriculum Learning Areas.
2. Develop site-specific curriculum resources to support National Park Education Officers to provide improved learning opportunities aligned with the Australian Curriculum.



3 Student pathways

What we will do

1. Develop and support VET and Flexible Industry Pathways for senior secondary students, aligned with:
 - conservation and land management
 - agriculture
 - animal care
 - aquaculture
 - horticulture
 - forestry.
2. Identify and connect schools with industry partners through the Industry and Employer Immersion program. This will provide students with opportunities to learn from employers about essential skills for the environmental and sustainability fields –including future careers for the rollout of the new South Australian hydrogen energy sector e.g. industry tasters, workplace learning, Aboriginal traineeships.



4 Understanding conservation and sustainability

What we will do

1. Enhance access to portals containing environmental and sustainability data and research, inclusive of energy, solar, water and waste data. Provide access to heat mapping, green space mapping, coastal environments, and biodiversity maps.
2. Provide connections to scientific experts and researchers to assist students with analysis, interpretation and understanding of environmental and sustainability data.



5 Partnering with communities and industry

What we will do

1. Facilitate participation of schools in local environmental and sustainability programs and projects based in local parks, bushlands, and community gardens.
2. Develop a directory of government and non-government business partners within the environmental and sustainability field that can support student learning via school excursions, field trips, student research projects, student volunteering, industry-sponsored student competitions and guest speakers.



Principles

The following principles will guide the development of new environmental education opportunities:

- a. Preschool and school learning activities are evidence based and incorporate the latest scientific research and most accurate data.
- b. Education programs are aligned to the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) for preschool children and the Australian Curriculum for school students and are developed in consultation with curriculum and environmental subject matter experts.
- c. Learning activities are inclusive and culturally appropriate and are responsive to different student cohorts. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and ways of knowing are authentically embedded to promote sustainable and ethical futures.

Implementation

A new Joint Environmental Education Working Group will oversee the implementation of this plan, including the development of new initiatives and the publication of new/revised resources. The group will report to Ministers annually.