

## QESSI Organisational Structure for 2008-2010

The **Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative** (QESSI) is a contemporary approach to environmental education for sustainability in schools. The QESSI vision is to encourage all schools in Queensland to become environmentally sustainable. QESSI is neither a program nor a product; it is a transformative process-based concept. QESSI is focussed on building partnerships between key stakeholders that supports schools in the area of environmental education for sustainability.

**QESSI Patron** is Emeritus Professor Ian Lowe and his role is to provide advice for and promote the work of the QESSI.

The **QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan 2005 – 2007** is based on the Planning Web<sup>c</sup> model which sets the strategic direction for QESSI. It was developed through a strategic visioning facilitated forum in April 2004, and is set in the context of the United Nation Decade for Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 and underpinned by the values and principles of the Earth Charter. It is highly recommended this original strategic plan is read before reading the second QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan 2008-10 to get a broad understanding of the complexities and subtleties of the QESSI concept.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/environment/outdoor/aboutqessi.html> The **QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan 2008-10** has been endorsed by the QESSI Steering committee.

The **QESSI Alliance** is a voluntary cooperative loose coupling model involving service providers of environmental education for sustainability for schools from government and non-government and corporate organisations and agencies. QESSI recognises all participants are valued and important. The QESSI Alliance has the objective of building capacity within each organisation; improving quality of service provision to their clients i.e. schools; establishing a strong professional dialogue with the view for collaboration; avoiding duplication of resources where possible and investigating cooperative projects to benefit the vision of the QESSI concept. Key stakeholders engage in a range of ways, representing their level of commitment and types of relationships. The QESSI Alliance model acknowledges that relationships and involvement can change from time to time, so members of the QESSI Alliance can place themselves where they want and need to be, and where they fit in. There are five levels to choose from Core; Patron and Champion; Partner; Affiliate; Sponsor; and Friend and Supporter.

The **QESSI Alliance Steering Committee** is the governance structure for the QESSI Alliance and is guided by the QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan. During 2005-07 all QESSI Alliance members, core and partner, were members on the QESSI Steering committee, however this was re-structured for 2008-10. Organisations that have a commitment to environmental education for sustainability in schools are invited to nominate a representative from their organisation to be part of the QESSI Steering committee. The terms of reference of the QESSI Steering Committee sets out the operating principles for the group. This steering committee will focus on a strategic leadership and direction to support the sustainable schools agenda, hence there is a need to refine the role of the QESSI steering committee to be predominately strategic (see recommended membership below). This was also a recommendation of the QUT/Griffith QESSI Evaluation.

## **The membership for the new 2008-2010 QESSI Steering Committee.**

<b>No</b>	<b>Organisation and Program</b>	<b>QESSI Steering Committee</b>	<b>Position</b>
1	Department of Education and Training (DET), Chair	Anna Brazier	Director , Teaching and Learning
2	QESSI Regional Hub and O&EEC Representative	Noeleen Rowntree	Principal Bunyaville EEC
3	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Reef Guardian Schools	Karen Vohland	Manager, Communication and Education
4	Australian Department of Environment, Water Heritage and the Arts, AuSSI	Owen Cameron	Director, Sustainability Education
5	Department of Environment and Resource Management	John Martinkovic	Director, Sustainable Landscapes and Communities Division
6	DET, Earth Smart	Di Aylward	State Coordinator
7	Envirocom, Waste, Water and Energy education	Glenn Eales	Regional Manager, Envirocom
8	Keep Australia Beautiful –Qld; Green and Healthy Schools	Ric Burnett	Chief Executive Officer
9	DETA – Environmental Sustainability, QESSI secretariat	Cam Mackenzie	Principal Advisor
10	Association of Independent Schools Queensland	Jenene Rosser	Assistant Director (Curriculum & Research)
11	Queensland Catholic Education Commission, On Holy Ground	Adrienne McDarra	Executive Officer – Catholic Education Commission
12	Queensland Youth Environment Council	Paul Songhurst	Co-chair of the Education and Participation Working Group
13	Indigenous Education Representative	TBC	TBC
14	Office of Clean Energy, EnergyWise	Clare Hammill	Manager, Policy Development
15	Tertiary Institutions, Critical Friend and Research	Lisa Ryan	Lecturer, University of the Sunshine Coast
16	Queensland Transport, Travel Smart	Graham Lunney	Manager, Travel Smart
17	Greening Australia - Plant Smart	Rod Bristow	CEO
18	CSIRO, Carbon Kids	Ross Kingsland	Manager, CSIRO Education
19	Gould League	David Walker	Executive Officer

### **Terms of Reference**

1. Set the strategic direction of the Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) as outlined in the 2008-2010 QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan.
2. Monitor and evaluate the progress and achievements of the QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan.
3. Report as appropriate to Federal, State and local government and members' governing bodies on the outcomes of the QESSI Alliance strategic plan and associated actions.
4. Support QESSI by identifying additional funding and promotional opportunities through individual members and networks.
5. Provide support to the QESSI regional hubs.
6. Provide input on new developments in environmental education for sustainability in schools across Queensland.
7. Provide opportunities to access broader dialogue about sustainability that can inform the educational agenda across Queensland.

A **QESSI Network** consists primarily of organisations, agencies, school and teachers that receive products and services as clients of the QESSI Alliance member programs. The role of the QESSI network is to disseminate information, participate in professional development activities, share case studies of sustainable schools and offer advice to the QESSI Alliance members as ‘critical friends’.

The **QESSI Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** include existing groups that have been formed around a common focus theme on environmental education for sustainability in schools. These include a) Queensland Waste Educators Group b) Energy Efficiency in Schools Roundtable, incorporating Solar Schools c) WaterWise Education working group d) Queensland Education Partnerships for Sustainability (Natural Resource Education group). They will be represented on the QESSI Alliance Steering committee through an appropriate sector representative.

**QESSI Regional Hubs** act as a regional implementation component for the QESSI concept. A QESSI Hub will act as a ‘one-stop-shop’ (see 2005-07 QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan Part D –2 to 5 for details) to support schools in their endeavour to become more environmentally sustainable. The current network of 12 QESSI Regional Hubs collaborates with the existing QESSI Alliance member programs, products and services as well as developing their regional Alliances. Expressions of Interest (EOI) to become a QESSI Regional Hub were called and the QESSI State coordinator supports these Regional Hubs with advice, funding, professional development and strategic planning. Each QESSI Regional Hub is required to develop their own QESSI Regional Action Plan for Sustainability (RAPS) and Regional Investment Strategy (RIS) and produce an Annual Report of the Sustainability Outputs, Actions and Outcomes. There will be an expansion of the number of QESSI regional hubs to approximately 20 to deliver the Earth Smart Science program for state primary schools. **QESSI regional coordinators** are responsible for all the financial, administration and reporting accountabilities as well as managing of the regional QESSI facilitators. The **QESSI regional facilitators** are responsible for supporting the cluster of schools to embed the whole of school approach to sustainability. The **QESSI state coordinator** is responsible for managing the state-wide implementation of the QESSI concept through fostering partnerships and synergies between all the key stakeholders.

**QESSI secretariat** is the officer who is dedicated to coordinating the QESSI concept. This role has several functions and they include:

- Secretariat support for the QESSI Alliance Steering committee
- Provide support for the QESSI Alliance through electronic communication and meetings
- Provide a conduit between QESSI and AuSSI (Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative)

A **QESSI Regional Action Plan for Sustainability (RAPS)** is based on the QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan and is a guide for each QESSI Regional Hub to develop their own locally relevant implementation strategy. The RAPS which are submitted the QESSI manager<sup>1</sup> for approval and act as a form of contract for each regional QESSI hub.

The **QESSI Regional Investment Strategy (RIS)** will include all regional organisations, agencies and individuals that form part of the QESSI Regional Implementation teams contributions (cash and in-kind) to achieve common objectives and outcomes for sustainable schools. RIS can be optional for QESSI hubs.

**QESSI Reports.** The local and regional sustainability outcomes i.e. environmental, economic, social and educational, for each of the QESSI Alliance goals are aggregated to form the basis of the **QESSI Progress Report 2005-07**, as well as the **State of the Environment** reports at a school, regional, state or national level. QESSI Alliance members are also invited to submit annual reports that highlight the outcomes from their programs.

**The Relationships between each of the parts of the QESSI Structure.**  
**(refer to diagram below)**

- 1. Network <-> School.** Representatives from the three Schools sectors i.e. Education Queensland, Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland; Teacher Associations, Environmental Education Associations; Universities and other individual and organisation who are involved in some way with the QESSI concept, but do not see themselves as core QESSI members, are part of this relationship.
- 2. Special Interest Groups (SIGs) <-> School.** All the Special Interest Groups will continue to support individual schools through their existing programs, products and services. These groups will have continual relationship with their respective client schools. This relationship is basically '*business as usual*'. However, all SIGs are encouraged to network with each other and the QESSI regional hubs to develop synergies and partnerships and avoid duplication.
- 3. Regional Hub <-> Schools.** QESSI Hubs will work with a selection of schools to add value in their pursuit to become environmentally sustainable. It is envisaged there will be 12 QESSI Hubs that will work with a cluster of approximately 6 – 8 schools per hub, thereby having a network of approximately 100 schools. Most of these schools will already be part of an existing QESSI Alliance member program, so the role of the QESSI Hubs is to add value to these programs such as assistance in the development of Schools Environmental Management Plans (SEMP) etc.
- 4. Network <-> Regional Hubs.** There are organisations that will both assist Regional Hubs and be assisted by Regional Hubs. Each Regional Hub will be encouraged to develop their own regional network of active teachers, schools and organisations, through which the Regional Hub could disseminate information, present professional development for school staff, organise environmental education expos and other networking functions.
- 5. Special Interest Groups <-> Regional Hubs.** Each QESSI Regional Hub will be encouraged to establish Regional QESSI Alliances with service providers in their region. These Special Interest Groups are existing organisations and agencies, in particular local councils and Regional Natural

Resource Management bodies or regional or city councils. RAPS and RIS could be developed in partnership with these regional organisations.

- 6. Steering Committee <-> Regional Hubs.** The EOI process to become a QESSI Regional Hub is managed by the QESSI coordinator. The QESSI Steering committee will assist each Regional Hub and will provide assistance in the development of the RAPS and RIS. Also professional development opportunities will be available to every Regional Hub, especially train-the-trainer in-service workshops to assist the staff within Regional Hubs and Alliance members. Seed funding will be provided by the QESSI Steering Committee to assist Hubs in their delivery of support for schools. Each Regional Hub will provide an Annual Report highlighting all their achievements and sustainability outcomes from their cluster schools.
- 7. Network <-> Steering Committee.** Specific representatives from the QESSI Network of organisations and associations are invited to be part of the QESSI Steering Committee. These Network members have the role and responsibility of contributing to the QESSI concept and reporting the outcomes to their respective organisation on the steering committee. All Network members will be part of a communication strategy that will include updates on professional development for staff, products and programs available for schools etc through e-group newsletters.
- 8. Steering Committee <-> Special Interest Groups.** The relationship between the Steering Committee and the Special Interest Groups is a critical aspect for the success of the whole QESSI concept. The QESSI Alliance Strategic Plan is pivotal document that cements the relationship around which the QESSI concept is progressed. The chair of the QESSI Steering Committee is the Director, Teaching and Learning Branch, DET. All core members of the QESSI Alliance and specific members of the network are invited to be members of the QESSI Steering committee.
- 9. QESSI <-> Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI).** The Department of Education and Training is the lead agent for QESSI and is responsible for managing the any funding from the Commonwealth Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA). Also QESSI has been developed to include the common agreed elements and indicators for Sustainable Schools. Support from the DEWHA is not only financial; there is professional assistance through participation in the AuSSI Working Group of the National Environmental Education Network (NEEN). The AuSSI partnership that outlines the relationship between all the state and territory Sustainable Schools initiatives and the Commonwealth was endorsed by all the Ministers for Environment and Education.

**Queensland Environmentally Sustainable Schools Initiative (QESSI) Alliance Organisational Structure**

