

## WATER FOR LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM



With a population of over 4.3 million people in Greater Sydney, the NSW Government is investing in a comprehensive education program to engage the community to play their part in securing our water for life.

Through the Water for Life Education Program, a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to water education is delivering community campaigns, water education projects, resources and training as an integrated part of the NSW Government's Metropolitan Water Plan.

The Program delivers projects across a number of key areas, including:

- ◆ **Water for Life campaigns and website** - reaching the wider Sydney community to encourage them to keep up their water saving efforts and inform them about the range of NSW Government initiatives to secure our water
- ◆ **Capacity building** - a coordinated program providing professional learning, resources and tools such as community research, and supporting a network of water educators delivering leading practice water education projects
- ◆ **Coordinating water education across Greater Sydney** – building partnerships between State, local and non government organisations and developing a collaborative *action plan for all metropolitan water education*
- ◆ **Targeted water education projects** - innovative partnerships to engage priority sectors of the community

Water for Life is encouraging business, government and the greater community to increase recycling and use water more efficiently, so that we all work together to ensure a sustainable water supply.

To support the community to play a key role in securing Sydney's water future, an important element of the Program is also increasing understanding of the range of strategies being implemented through the Metropolitan Water Plan.

### Co-ordinating water education across Sydney

Coordinating water education will help ensure the best use of resources and improve the effectiveness of education projects delivered to engage the community.

This work includes the collaborative development of an *action plan for all metropolitan water education* in Greater Sydney. The action plan is currently under development by representatives from State, local and non government organisations, and will identify objectives and strategies for water education, including priority actions for these organisations.

Community education is also being integrated into various other initiatives of the Metropolitan Water Plan to ensure the community can meaningfully participate in planning for Sydney's water future.

## Capacity Building for water education

Building the capacity of educators within State, local and non government to deliver leading practice water education is also a vital part of the Education Program.

Capacity building projects include:

- ◆ Coordinated professional development program – activities are being run by State, local and non government organisations to build knowledge and skills, and provide training and support for educators
- ◆ Water Education Resource Hub - improving water educators access to information and resources on leading practice education via the Water for Life website
- ◆ Annual Water for Life Forum – bringing together the latest research projects and ideas, developing partnerships and sharing resources
- ◆ Research - coordination and support for integrating research into program design and delivery
- ◆ Partnerships - delivering innovative water education projects.

Other activities are under development and will be promoted on the Water for Life website. Visit the website and sign up to Water for Life eNews to stay informed.

These projects aim to engage a broad cross section of educators from State and local government, community organisations and businesses across the Greater Sydney area, while also increasing access to resources for educators across NSW.

## Targeted Education Projects for priority sectors of the community

Partnerships with key organisations are helping to build the capacity of educators to deliver leading practice water education projects and engage the community in saving water.

The first four projects are:

- ◆ Water conservation education for non-English speaking people through a partnership with the Ethnic Communities Council of NSW
- ◆ Professional learning and resources for teachers and students through a partnership with the NSW Science Teachers Association and the NSW Geography Teachers Association
- ◆ Household water conservation education and water conservation for 18-35 year-olds through a partnership with the Australian Conservation Foundation
- ◆ Water efficiency education for the property sector through a partnership with the Property Council of Australia.

As part of these projects, toolkits and resources are developed for use by all educators. More information is available at [waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/education](http://waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/education).