



Australian Government



## Calling all Wetland Warriors and Protectors

- Do you want to challenge the way your students think about the environment?
- Would you like funding to run a fun, hands-on unit about protecting the Great Barrier Reef through wetlands?

The Queensland Wetlands Program (QWP)—a joint initiative between the Australian and Queensland governments—is offering funding to five schools from Cairns to Bundaberg to implement the innovative QWP wetlands unit for one term in 2009/10.

The unit was developed by teachers in consultation with environment experts. It was developed for year 7, but has been successfully adapted for year 3, and may be suitable for any class years 3 to 7. It has been piloted in three schools – Townsville Central State School, Rasmussen State School and Tewantin State School.

The unit explores the importance of wetlands, their role in reducing sediment and nutrient run-off to the Great Barrier Reef, and the impact of our actions on their functions. The unit encompasses all aspects of the syllabus and is a combination of classroom and field-based activities.

Over the term students learn how to protect, conserve and manage wetlands through a fun learning program which includes field trips and an indigenous-inspired Storythread.

### ***What we are looking for from schools:***

- ✓ Schools that have or are interested in developing an environmental program and activities within the school.
- ✓ Interest in partnerships with the Regional Natural Resource Management groups, industry, community and government groups.
- ✓ Capacity to “Adopt a Wetland” near your school and look after it.
- ✓ Capacity to deliver hands-on wetland focused education for a term (unit completed Semester 1, 2010).
- ✓ Schools willing to make a commitment to the allocation of resources.
- ✓ Must be happy to have media throughout the term.

### ***We will provide:***

- ✓ The wetland unit, Storythread, catchment role play.
- ✓ Up to \$2000 to assist with unit and excursion costs.
- ✓ Teacher training (27-28 August 2009) to understand the wetlands unit and develop a Storythread for your local creek or wetland.
- ✓ Support delivery of the unit.
- ✓ Support in building partnerships with Regional Natural Resource Management groups, industry, community and government groups, and delivery of the unit.

### ***What you will need to do to be involved:***

Please submit an expression of interest by filling out the attached template by 15 May. Funding arrangements must be in place by June 30, 2009.

For more information about the curriculum or to register your interest contact QWP Project Manager Donna-marie Audas on 0412030945, 07 4750 0845 or email [d.audas@gbmpa.gov.au](mailto:d.audas@gbmpa.gov.au) by 15 May 2009.

