



## Valuing the environment

### The school's plan

Since commencing operations in 2006 the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology has recognised the significance of the natural environment surrounding and across its campus at Toowong.

In the 2018 the school developed the *Land for Wildlife Bushland Project Management Plan*.

The plan sets out the school's approach to managing the areas of significant value that surround the campus including the Toowong Creek Catchment. The plan is aligned with the school's strategic vision and operational strategies.

Based on advice from Brisbane City Council officers, the plan provides current and future staff, parents and students with a guide to how these areas of environmental value can be preserved and enhanced.

The plan also supports the school's initiatives to provide unique learning opportunities for students on the value of sustainable co-existence with local fauna and flora.

### The school's priorities

The two major sustainability priorities for the school currently, are to become carbon neutral and to become single-use plastic free. These priorities have been developed in order to benefit our local and wider environment on as large a scale as possible. By reducing plastic, the school is reducing both its plastic consumption and waste production. The benefits of this include less plastic production to begin with, as well as reduced risk of plastic entering our natural environment. Becoming carbon neutral means fresher air in our local environment and reduced heat production that arises from our carbon emissions.

### Environmental initiatives

#### Toowong Creek

- QASMT Staff and Students working to reinstate local, native flora into the creek bank (school side)
- Goal is to stabilise the creek bank, therefore using native grasses to reduce risk of erosion
- Invasive weed removal

#### Environment and Biodiversity Club

- Help rehabilitate the Toowong Creek Catchment zone on the school grounds
- Planting trees native to the local area



- Creating signage to help identify the local flora and fauna
- Extra curriculum activity initiated by students supported by staff
- Engaging students and staff in biodiversity events and competitions to promote awareness

### **Plastic Oceans Club**

- Promote waste reduction and how to reduce plastic consumption in the school community
- Engaging students and staff in events and competitions that focus on reducing single-use plastic consumption
- Promoting correct waste management with five bin types
- Conducting a plastic audit and plan to target single-use plastics around the school
- Working with staff members and leading alternatives to replace plastics at whole school events

### **World Ocean Day Celebrations – University of Queensland**

- Hear the experiences of First Nations Persons particularly the traditional owners of the Moreton Bay Marine Park and methods of conservation practices traditionally used in the area
- Talked to Doctor Anya Phelan (UQ lecturer for Strategy and Entrepreneurship Discipline and Entrepreneur in Residence with the CSIRO Plastics Innovation Hub) about the increased rate of plastic production globally and learnt more about efforts to reduce plastic around the world
- Understood the concept of Kin centrality (being a part of all the natural elements of our ecosystem)

### **Vera Street Community Gardens**

- Long established affiliation
- Established through the Creativity, Activity, Service program (CAS)
- Provides student learning opportunity on local flora, gardening techniques and conservation

### **Bee Club**

- Students engage with educators to learn about bees and their benefit to the environment
- Students develop skills in caring for bees and how to promote positive impacts from including them in the environment

### **More Information**

To find more information visit the Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology website at: [www.qasmt.eq.edu.au](http://www.qasmt.eq.edu.au)