

# Queensland Department of Education Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres

## Inspiring learning and leading through outdoor and environmental education

The 25 Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres (O&EEC) are State educational institutions in the Queensland Department of Education. O&EEC provide specialised residential and day visit programs which are designed to assist partner schools in meeting goals linked to: Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline, Australian Curriculum (P-10), and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Senior Syllabuses (11-12).

With a focus on outdoor and environmental education, we authentically integrate the cross-curriculum priorities of Sustainability, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures, the General Capabilities and STEM connections.

The strengths of our programs are in their clarity of purpose, interdisciplinary design, place-responsive pedagogy, culturally informed practices, and deeply connected ways of learning.



## Outdoor Learning Curriculum Connection – Australian Curriculum

Outdoor learning facilitates the development of positive relationships with self, others and the environment through interaction with the natural world. These relationships are essential for the wellbeing and sustainability of individuals, society and our environment. Students engage in practical and active learning experiences in natural environments and settings, which typically take place beyond the school classroom. In these place-based learning spaces, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to live and move effectively, while enhancing relationships, their own health and wellbeing, and a sense of social justice. They also learn to value and promote a positive and sustainable relationship with natural environments.

SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

CONNECTIONS

CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY

HEALTH & WELLBEING

## How we Enrich, Enhance and Extend Learning

- We accurately align and integrate curriculum content across multiple learning areas within the Australian Curriculums.
- We use high impact pedagogies, our unique contexts, expert teaching teams and state-of-the-art resources and facilities.
- We create opportunities for learners to explore the links between human-nature relationships, health and wellbeing, highlighting how sustainable engagement with natural environments benefits individuals, communities, and ecosystems.
- We support learners in building connections to themselves, others and the natural environment.
- We authentically integrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, connections and ways of being by learning about and on Country.
- We encourage and assist the implementation of effective environmental education for sustainability through programs and in schools.
- We build partnerships with other schools, government and non-government organisations, and community networks to expand learning opportunities provided at our site and beyond.
- We welcome individuals and groups into safe, inclusive and collaborative spaces.

## Student Impact

Outdoor and environmental education centres provide authentic, place-responsive experiences that extend learning beyond the classroom.

### STUDENTS:

- **Engage** authentically through experiential learning and develop ecological literacy.
- **Strengthen** outcomes across curriculums and syllabus areas while building creative and critical thinking.
- **Are empowered** to care for the natural environment and Country, deepening respect for traditional custodians.
- **Grow** as curious, confident and connected learners with resilience and adaptability.
- **Extend** teamwork, communication and leadership through collaborative experiences.
- **Experience** challenge, wonder and joy in natural settings, laying foundations for lifelong learning and wellbeing.
- **Gain exposure** to real-world industry and career pathways in environmental and outdoor fields.

## What Sets Us Apart: Our Diverse Settings and Unique Strengths

### PLACE

Across Queensland, our centres are uniquely embedded in diverse environments - from coastlines, islands, reefs, beaches, and mangroves to rainforests, bushland, wetlands, historical and cultural sites, and even urban landscapes, all of which encompass some of the most biodiverse ecosystems in Australia. Each centre draws on its place to connect learners with the environment, culture, and community, fostering belonging, deep respect, and custodianship of Country.

### HIGH IMPACT PEDAGOGIES

Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres deliver immersive learning experiences through evidence-based, high impact pedagogies embedded within our distinctive settings. Place-responsive learning facilitates the development of positive relationships with self, others and the environment through interaction with the natural world.

### EXPERT TEACHING TEAMS

Our teaching teams are passionate, highly skilled educators with expertise across outdoor, environmental and experiential learning. They bring curriculum to life in specialised contexts, providing programs to meet a wide range of learning needs and styles. With a deep understanding of people, place and respect for Country they inspire learners to think critically and creatively, act sustainably, and engage purposefully with the world around them.

### WORLD CLASS FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres provide access to facilities and resources rarely available in school settings. These include mobile and floating classrooms, adaptive indoor and outdoor learning spaces, and specialist equipment designed to enrich hands-on learning. Students engage in real-world contexts across a wide variety of environments and ecosystems - each offering powerful opportunities for connection, discovery and application of learning.

### COMMUNITY, PARTNERSHIPS & PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS

The strength of our centres are in strategic, meaningful partnerships with schools, P&Cs, other O&EEC, First Nations Traditional Custodians, National Parks, land managers and stakeholders, university and vocational institutions, industry, environmental sustainability and conservation organisations, and global networks. Together, we create connected learning pathways that build capacity across communities and enhance opportunities for students, teachers, schools and the wider community.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE:** Visiting teacher feedback survey / Long-term returning clients / O&EEC Visitation data / Alignment to Australian Curriculum, Senior Syllabuses, EYLF and QKLG / Collaboration with Principals, HoDs and teachers / O&EEC sector collaboration, moderation and communities of practice / Student assessment / Evidence based – Australian Research Council research\*



Queensland Association of Outdoor & Environmental Education Centre Leaders

# Queensland Department of Education Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres



**1 Holloways Beach EEC**  
Holloways Beach, Cairns  
Far North Queensland Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[hollowaysbeacheec.eq.edu.au](http://hollowaysbeacheec.eq.edu.au)

**2 Tinaroo EEC (Barron River and Black Gully campuses)**  
Tinaroo, Atherton Tablelands  
Far North Queensland Region  
Day visit and Residential / K - 12  
[tinarooeec.eq.edu.au](http://tinarooeec.eq.edu.au)

**3 Daradgee EEC**  
Daradgee, Far North QLD  
Far North Queensland Region  
Day visit and Residential / K - 12  
[daradgeeeec.eq.edu.au](http://daradgeeeec.eq.edu.au)

**4 Paluma EEC**  
Townsville  
North Queensland Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[palumaec.eq.edu.au](http://palumaec.eq.edu.au)

**5 Kinchant Dam OEC**  
Kinchant Dam, Mackay  
Central Queensland Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[kinchantoec.eq.edu.au](http://kinchantoec.eq.edu.au)

**6 Camp Fairbairn OEC**  
Gindie, south Emerald  
Central Queensland Region  
Residential / P - 12  
[campfairbairnoec.eq.edu.au](http://campfairbairnoec.eq.edu.au)

**7 Konomie Island EEC**  
Keppel Bay, off Yeppoon  
Central Queensland Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[konomieislandeec.eq.edu.au](http://konomieislandeec.eq.edu.au)

**8 Boyne Island EEC**  
Boyne Island, south of Gladstone  
Central Queensland Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[boyneislandeec.eq.edu.au](http://boyneislandeec.eq.edu.au)

**9 Barambah EEC**  
Wratten's Forest, near Gympie  
North Coast Region  
Day visit and Residential / K - 12  
[barambaheec.eq.edu.au](http://barambaheec.eq.edu.au)

**10 Columboola EEC**  
Columboola, east of Miles  
Darling Downs South West Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[columboolaec.eq.edu.au](http://columboolaec.eq.edu.au)

**11 Amaroo EEC**  
Kleinton, Toowoomba  
Darling Downs South West Region  
Day visit / P - 12  
[amarooec.eq.edu.au](http://amarooec.eq.edu.au)

**12 Sunshine Coast EEC**  
North Coast Region  
Bilal Office, Maroochy Wetlands  
Sanctuary, Bli Bli  
Day visit P - 12  
[sunshinecoasteec.eq.edu.au](http://sunshinecoasteec.eq.edu.au)

**13 Sunday Creek Campsite**  
Sunday Creek Road, Jimna  
Residential  
[sundaycreekcampsite.eq.edu.au](http://sundaycreekcampsite.eq.edu.au)

**14 Stanley River EEC**  
Lake Somerset  
North Coast Region  
Day visit and Residential / K - 12  
[stanleyrivereec.eq.edu.au](http://stanleyrivereec.eq.edu.au)

**15 Nudgee Beach EEC**  
Nudgee Beach, Brisbane  
Metropolitan North Region  
Day visit / K - 12  
[nudgeebeacheec.eq.edu.au](http://nudgeebeacheec.eq.edu.au)

**16 Bunyaville EEC**  
Bunyaville Conservation Park,  
Brisbane, Metropolitan North Region  
Day visit / K - 12  
[bunyavilleec.eq.edu.au](http://bunyavilleec.eq.edu.au)

**17 Pullenvale EEC**  
Pullenvale, West Brisbane  
Metropolitan North Region  
Day visit / K - 12  
[pullenvaleec.eq.edu.au](http://pullenvaleec.eq.edu.au)

**18 Brisbane Urban EEC**  
Newmarket, Brisbane  
Metropolitan North Region  
Day Visit (+ Ekka Show Camp) / P - 12  
[brisbaneurbaneec.eq.edu.au](http://brisbaneurbaneec.eq.edu.au)

**19 Moreton Bay EEC**  
Wynnum, Brisbane  
Metropolitan South Region  
Day visit / P - 12  
[moretoneec.eq.edu.au](http://moretoneec.eq.edu.au)

**20 Toohey Forest EEC**  
Griffith University Nathan Campus  
Metropolitan South Region  
Day visit / P - 12  
[tooheyforesteec.eq.edu.au](http://tooheyforesteec.eq.edu.au)

**21 Jacobs Well EEC**  
Norwell, Gold Coast  
South East Region  
Day visit and Residential / K - 12  
[jacobsweelleec.eq.edu.au](http://jacobsweelleec.eq.edu.au)

**22 Runaway Bay Sport and Leadership Excellence Centre**  
Gold Coast  
South East Region  
Day visit and Residential / 3 - 12  
[runawaybaysportlec.eq.edu.au](http://runawaybaysportlec.eq.edu.au)

**23 Tallebudgera O&EEC**  
Palm Beach, Gold Coast  
South East Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[tallebudgeraoeec.eq.edu.au](http://tallebudgeraoeec.eq.edu.au)

**24 Numinbah Valley EEC**  
Gold Coast Hinterland  
South East Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[numinbahvalleyeec.eq.edu.au](http://numinbahvalleyeec.eq.edu.au)

**25 Maroon OEC**  
Maroon Dam, Scenic Rim  
South East Region  
Residential / 4 - 12  
[maroonoec.eq.edu.au](http://maroonoec.eq.edu.au)

**26 Currumbin Valley EEC**  
Currumbin Valley, Gold Coast  
South East Region  
Day visit and Residential / P - 12  
[currumbinvalleyeec.eq.edu.au](http://currumbinvalleyeec.eq.edu.au)

**Map Key:**

- = Day visit only
- = Residential and Day visit
- = Residential only

**EEC** = Environmental Education Centre

**OEC** = Outdoor Education Centre

## Brighter Futures

The work of O&EEC supports the Department of Education strategy of delivering excellence in every state school, for every student.

### EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Knowing and responding to each student's learning needs is essential to making sure they are on track to achieve their educational goals.

Our common goal is for every student to progress in their learning each year to achieve individual excellence, and to invest in the capability and expertise of our people to support them.

### BELONGING AND ENGAGEMENT

Welcoming every student and supporting their unique needs creates a positive culture that promotes a sense of belonging, wellbeing and safety to support their engagement in learning.

Our common goal is to create positive and inclusive teaching and learning environments where all staff and students feel confident, resilient and supported to thrive.

Connections to communities enrich the learning of every student and strengthens all of our work.

*We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas, skies and waterways across Queensland. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and those of the future, for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.*

*We recognise the unique opportunities our centres have to promote better understanding and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures by embedding First Nations perspectives, building strong community connections and, by working and learning on Country. We are committed to truth telling and authentic connection to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices are heard and valued.*

Artwork: 'Map of Country' by Glenn Barry (Gamilaraay Artist).

Refer: \*Charter for Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres \*Brighter Futures Education Strategy \*Introducing a Fifth Pedagogy: Experience-Based Strategies for Facilitating Learning in Natural Environments' by Roy Ballantyne and Jan Packer \* 'Learning for Sustainability: The role and impact of Outdoor and Environmental Education Centres' by Roy Ballantyne and Jan Packer.

[www.education.qld.gov.au/schools-educators/other-education/OEEC](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/schools-educators/other-education/OEEC)

