



### **Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative**

- The Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI) is a partnership of the Australian Government and the states and territories.
- AuSSI is co-ordinated and supported nationally by the Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.
- AuSSI is a key initiative under the *National Action Plan for Education for Sustainability, Living Sustainably*.
- It implements the *National Environmental Education Statement for Australian Schools* (2005), and contributes to achieving the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (2008). Both of which have been agreed to by all education Ministers.
- AuSSI aims to improve students' understanding of the complexity of the world in which they live by developing their knowledge, critical thinking skills, values and capacity to participate in decision making about environmental, social, economic and development issues.
- AuSSI engages students, staff and members of the community in improving the management of a school's resources and facilities - including energy, waste, water, biodiversity, landscape design, products and materials - and integrates these activities across the curriculum.
- AuSSI provides links to, and complements, existing national and state/territory environmental/sustainability programs, such as the National Solar Schools Program, Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Gardens, WasteWise, Waterwatch and the Reef Guardians School Program.
- Direct support to schools is provided through the states and territories and includes, access to best practice education for sustainability resources and professional development for teachers and school staff.
- Over 2,500 schools, or approximately 25 per cent of Australian schools, are participants in AuSSI.
- Participating schools have reported reductions in waste collection of up to 80%, reductions in water consumption of up to 60%, and savings on energy consumption of 20% with commensurate reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Details of AuSSI can be found on the DEWHA website at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/education/aussi/index.html>