



## ROMSEY PRIMARY SCHOOL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### **Rationale:**

Sustainability is defined as meeting the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (United Nations 1987). At Romsey Primary School our vision is to actively engage students, staff and the community in developing a sustainable environment. We will foster and share best practice and emphasise the importance of preparing and empowering individuals to become responsible for creating a sustainable future. This will be achieved by integrating sustainability into all areas of the curriculum and instilling a sense of ownership of and pride in improving the environment.

### **Goals:**

- To develop an environmentally conscious culture at Romsey Primary School and its surrounding community.
- To educate and encourage students, teachers and the wider community to appreciate and respect the school environment.
- To educate and involve the wider school community in sustainability best practices.
- To improve biodiversity by increasing our school's habitat quality index score as much as possible with appropriate plantings of indigenous species of plants and increasing the habitat area for local and indigenous wildlife.
- To reduce energy consumption through smarter practices and greater efficiency as well as working towards using carbon neutral energy sources:

#### **Targets are:**

- Water 20% reduction year 1 and 10% annually
- Energy – LPG, natural gas and electricity – 20% reduction year 1 and 10% annually,
- Biodiversity 10% increase annually
- Waste 10% reduction annually
- To minimise landfill waste to below the benchmark for a school of RPS's student numbers and increase the percentage of material that is reused, recycled, reduced and composted.
- To minimise the consumption of mains water through the improvement of plumbing systems and water conservation programs.
- To introduce 'green purchasing' procedures for the school community.

**Guidelines:**

- To ensure that Sustainability as a cross curricular AusVELS domain is included in Inquiry Learning at each year level and implemented as a hands on approach.
- To include Sustainability in relevant whole school events.
- To engage with Landcare, Western Water and other community organisations to embed Sustainability across the school.
- The ResourceSmart AuSSI website will be utilised to measure progress in reaching our targets, as well as completing modules in the framework. Examples of implementation will be provided in the comments on each ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic checklist to serve as a progressive action plan. Results from each audit will be added to 'Annual (Baseline) Data'.
- To continue to develop a long term school ground's plan, that includes a diverse mix of indigenous species and habitat for native birds and animals.
- To lead the community by demonstrating exemplary practices in waste management, water and energy usage, and develop the school grounds to promote biodiversity.
- To appreciate water as a precious natural resource and minimise its use and educate the school community on ways to reduce water usage indoors and outdoors.
- To engage consultants to make recommendations for the installation of more efficient energy systems in the school.
- To minimise landfill waste and maximise recycling, reusing, reducing and composting.
- To empower student ownership of Sustainability by annually establishing a 'Green Team' with representatives from Prep to Year 6 including two Year 6 Green Hero captains.
- To reduce environmental impacts and educate the community on making environmentally friendly choices for life through green purchasing.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review.

**Date Ratified by School Council: 2015**

**Review Date: 2018**