



## Waterwise Schools Recognition Program

### Program Overview

Queensland primary schools are invited to participate in a Waterwise Recognition Program which aims to:

- encourage excellent Waterwise attitudes and behaviours
- demonstrate an ongoing commitment to implementing the *Water: Learn it for life!* program.

### Why join the recognition program?

The program has been designed to provide opportunities for:

- real-life student learning
- positive publicity for participating schools
- positive attitudinal and behaviour changes in children and their families
- conveying key water messages to the community
- learning about water efficiency.

Participating schools will be eligible to be considered for special awards. During 2008/09 cash awards totalling \$30,000 will be available to selected schools achieving the status of Waterwise School or Lighthouse Waterwise School of Excellence.

### How can your school participate?

If your school would like to participate, the first step is to complete the online registration form at [www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise/education](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise/education).

The three levels of achievement, which reflect your school's water-saving attitudes and behaviour, as well as the length of time you have been actively participating in the program are:

- Waterwise Starter
- Waterwise School
- Lighthouse Waterwise School of Excellence

The name of your school will then be recorded on the *Water: Learn it for life!* website under the appropriate category and updated as you progress through the three levels. You will be eligible for additional incentives along the way.

## Waterwise Starter School

To participate as a Waterwise Starter School, you will be asked to:

- provide the name and details and a key contact who will champion the program at your school.
- provide baseline data as soon as possible (ideally within one month of sign up) by:
  - taking two meter readings at your school, over a one-week period to measure baseline average daily water use
  - conducting an audit of water usage around your school (and including suggestions for reducing water use)
  - conducting in-class surveys (to be completed by students in years 3 to 7)
  - conducting a home water audit (to be completed by students in one year level)
- provide a curriculum plan showing how you will teach the *Water: Learn it for life!* program.

You will then be notified that you have been registered on the *Water: Learn it for Life!* website as a Waterwise Starter School and will receive:

- guidelines to help you become a Waterwise School
- updates of any revisions or additions to resources
- a CD of the *Water: Learn it for life!* program.

## Waterwise Schools

You will qualify for formal recognition as a Waterwise School when you have implemented the *Water: Learn it for life!* program and demonstrated an improvement in your water saving attitudes and behaviours and have:

- nominated a 'teacher champion' to drive your school's uptake of the *Water: Learn it for life!* program
- provided a curriculum plan outlining how you have used the program in your school over a six-month period
- completed a school action plan for reducing future water consumption based on your water audit
- provided updated water meter readings (two readings over a one-week period)
- repeated in class surveys (to be completed by students in years 3 to 7).
- distributed and collected a home water audit (to be completed by students in one year level)
- completed a teacher feedback survey on the program
- submitted any other evidence demonstrating increased awareness or responsibility for water use at your school.

Once you have been formally recognised as a Waterwise School you will be registered in that category on the *Water: Learn it for life!* website and will receive a certificate acknowledging your status. (You will need to update your information annually to maintain this status.)

You will also:

- be eligible to be considered for a **\$500 award\***
- receive the benefit of any media coverage generated from an NRW media release.
- be notified of new materials as they become available

\* *Schools are eligible to receive one \$500 award only.*

## Lighthouse Waterwise Schools of Excellence

Once your school has been recognised as a Waterwise School for 6 months or more, you may apply to become a Lighthouse Waterwise School of Excellence.

You will qualify for formal recognition in this category when they have continued to implement the *Water: Learn it for life!* program and demonstrated ongoing improvement in your water-saving attitudes and behaviours and have:

- updated details of the 'teacher champion' driving your school's uptake of the program
- provided an updated curriculum plan:
  - outlining how you have implemented the program across at least three year levels (with at least one unit per year level) for a further six months
  - including evidence that you have been implementing the program for one year or more
- reviewed and report on your school action plan for reducing water consumption
- provided updated water meter readings (2 readings over a one-week period).
- repeated in-class surveys (to be completed by students in year 3 to 7)
- distributed and collected a home water audit (to be completed by students in one year level)
- completed a teacher feedback survey on the program
- submitted any other evidence demonstrating increased awareness or responsibility for water use at your school.

Once you have been formally recognised as a Lighthouse Waterwise School of Excellence, you will be registered on the *Water: Learn it for Life!* website in that category and will receive a plaque acknowledging your status. (You will need to update your information annually to maintain this status.)

You will also:

- be eligible to be considered for a **\$5,000** award\*
- receive the benefit of any media coverage generated from a NRW release.
- be notified of new materials as they become available.

You may also be contacted and included on the *Water: Learn it for life!* website as a case study of a school demonstrating best practice in water-saving attitudes and behaviour.

*\*Schools are eligible to receive one \$5,000 award only.*

### Further information

All forms are available on the *Water: Learn it for Life!* website at:

<[www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise/education](http://www.nrw.qld.gov.au/waterwise/education)>

For more information about the Waterwise Schools Recognition Program, contact the Waterwise team at <[waterwise@nrw.qld.gov.au](mailto:waterwise@nrw.qld.gov.au)>