



# Wetlands Environmental Education Centre



## Stage 6

### Geography: Ecosystems at Risk

#### Geography outcomes

Geography, HSC Course - Ecosystems at Risk (H1, H2, H5, H6, H9, H10, H12)

#### Content

Ecosystems, interactions, distribution and abundance, and management issues

#### Program Description

Students will investigate a freshwater ecosystem and calculate factors that affect plant and animal life. They will identify conflicts in management for tourism and conservation, and analyse and summarise those aspects of the wetlands habitat which have been affected by people. Interpretation of maps and photographs over time.

PowerPoint Introduction

Fieldwork including:

- Biophysical factors: water and air temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction water depth, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and salinity. Use data loggers.
- Distribution and abundance of pond animals
- Photographic interpretation and GPS use
- Interpreting data from maps, satellite images

Conclusion: Issues balancing the management of tourism and conservation.

This program is delivered over 4hrs.

The basic program will be changed to suit larger groups or weather conditions

#### Location

Wetlands Environmental Education Centre (WEEC) located at  
Hunter Wetlands Centre, 412 Sandgate Rd, Shortland, Newcastle  
Please use School entry.

#### Site Description

Wetlands EEC is located at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, which is a managed wetland reserve with natural and artificial water features accessed by decks and established walking tracks. The site is classified as part of the Hunter Estuary Ramsar Site under the International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar).

Wetlands EEC have a purpose built education centre including theatre, wet room and classroom.

#### Excursion information

What to bring: Printed student workbook, clipboard and pencils, recess and lunch, refillable water bottle, hat, sunscreen, comfortable, covered walking shoes plus any special requirements of the group. (Wet weather gear when necessary). Non-aerosol insect repellent is advisable.

The WEEC is a NSW Department school and staff are trained DoE teachers specialising in Environmental Education. WEEC teachers rely on the participation of visiting teachers to meet recommended supervision levels. Visiting teachers are ultimately responsible for behaviour of students, students with existing medical conditions or special needs.