

# Strategic Improvement Plan 2021-2024

## Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre 5667



**WOOGLEMAI**  
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

# School vision and context

## School vision statement

At Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre, we support students to make sense of their changing world and to realise that all students are capable of contributing to positive sustainable lifestyle changes in their families, communities and wider society.

Wooglemai EEC provides visiting students with "hands on" quality, student-centred learning experiences that build on their classroom lessons and experiences. We work to ensure our students become successful learners, confident and creative individuals and active and informed global citizens and leaders. We provide educational experiences to engage all students to learn, discover and critically analyse their knowledge, equipping them as informed citizens who are socially, environmentally and culturally aware.

## School context

Wooglemai Environmental Education Centre is one of twenty five Environmental and Zoo Education Centres (EZEC) operated by the NSW Department of Education . Wooglemai EEC actively collaborates across this network to set directions and develop the organisation for environmental and sustainability education.

Wooglemai EEC programs are designed to address primary and secondary key learning areas including fieldwork and sustainability education as a cross-curriculum priority. The centre also provides for residential, recreational based camps (including outdoor activities such as kayaking, archery and high ropes challenges) designed to improve social outcomes and personal development of students.

Wooglemai is located at Oakdale, adjacent to Nattai National Park and the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. The centre is a 16 ha residential camp site catering for around 6,500 students K-12 pa. As well as on-site programs, Wooglemai EEC uses other sites, works in schools and presents at education events. Schools using the services of Wooglemai EEC are drawn primarily from the Illawarra, Southern Highlands and Metropolitan South West areas.

Teachers booking Wooglemai EEC are offered support(including phone conversations, pre-excursion visits, written confirmation, program advice and online support via the school website) to ensure the service we provide meets their needs. Communication covers logistics, special needs of students, syllabus links, learning experiences, differentiation of learning, resources and risk assessments.

Wooglemai EEC caters for Aboriginal students and/or students from areas of socio-economic disadvantage. Wooglemai also offers differentiated learning experiences for schools and communities of schools to provide for gifted and talented, intellectual and physical disadvantage and students at risk of disengagement.

NSW DoE has a lease with Guntawang Catholic Youth Centres Incorporated for exclusive use of the Wooglemai site during school terms.

Through the situational analysis, two focus areas for school improvement have been identified:

- Student growth and attainment
- Culturally rich curriculum

In order to achieve student growth and attainment, Wooglemai staff must facilitate engaging, relevant and meaningful educational experiences. Through greater curriculum links and embedding literacy and numeracy into programs, as well as closely linking activities to classroom learning, students should maximise their learning outcomes. Wooglemai Staff will collect, review and use data to inform their teaching practice and drive improvement.

# School vision and context

## School vision statement

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## School context

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To provide culturally rich curriculum, partnerships within the department of education and externally must be developed and enhanced. Connections with local schools, the AECG, EZEC network and councils should add relevance to all programs. Sustainability and outdoor education principles ensure quality teaching and learning through authentic and immersive lessons.

# Strategic Direction 1: Student Growth and attainment

## Purpose

Facilitate quality learning through meaningful and contextually relevant educational experiences K-12 and to maximise student learning outcomes in Science and Technology, History and Geography. All programs are embedded with literacy and numeracy skills.

## Improvement measures

### Target year: 2024

Increase the retention of schools who book programs over successive years from 60% to 70%. Wooglemai programs are highly valued and are closely linked to classroom learning.

### Target year: 2024

SEF SaS reflects excelling in the theme "Data Use in Teaching" within the element of "Data Skills and Use

## Initiatives

### Data Informed Teaching

Wooglemai EEC will gather meaningful student data to assist in future planning. The collection and appropriate analysis of this data will improve student learning support through:

- ensuring a more streamlined and targeted approach to teaching, learning and student outcomes
- increased levels of collaboration with schools and visiting teachers
- development of new and relevant student learning opportunities
- continuous improvement in pedagogies and teacher self assessment

### Curriculum Knowledge

All programs reflect curriculum from visiting schools. Wooglemai EEC programs will focus on curriculum knowledge and engagement through:

- literacy and numeracy outcomes delivered within programs.
- Constant review, adjustment, decommission and creation of programs to reflect appropriate KLA curriculum outcomes.
- Sustainability Education supported both at Wooglemai and within schools
- Professional learning to support effective classroom practice.
- collaborative practice with other EEC's to foster a shared understanding of innovative ways that an EEC can foster Quality Teaching practices for improved student outcomes.

## Success criteria for this strategic direction

Increasing usage of Wooglemai EEC with programs closely aligned to visiting school's classroom learning and outcomes. Retention of visiting schools who book in successive years is above 70%.

The School displays an integrated approach to quality teaching, curriculum planning and delivery, and assessment promotes learning excellence and responsiveness in meeting the needs of all students.

Teachers clearly understand, develop and apply a full range of assessment strategies - assessment for learning, assessment as learning and assessment of learning - in determining teaching directions, monitoring and assessing student progress and achievement, and reflecting on teaching effectiveness.

Data analysis drives teaching and learning programs and helps create engaging, relevant, meaningful and challenging lessons and activities.

## Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

Have we facilitated quality learning through meaningful and contextually relevant educational experiences K-12 and maximised student learning outcomes in Science and Technology, History and Geography. Are all programs embedded with literacy and numeracy skills.

Wooglemai will use the following data sources to regularly analyse the effectiveness of the initiatives:

- Student visitation numbers and new school uptake
- Pre and Post learning experience
- Student feedback
- Visiting teacher feedback
- Wooglemai Staff feedback
- Teacher surveys/Classroom impact observations
- Engagement observations/Video/Photographs

Wooglemai staff will meet regularly to analyse data

# Strategic Direction 1: Student Growth and attainment

## Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

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sources and evaluate future directions.

# Strategic Direction 2: Culturally Rich Curriculum

## Purpose

To provide relevant, best practice informed educational experiences to all students. All programs have cultural relevance and are sustainability driven. Wooglemai EEC will add value and relevance to classroom based learning through inclusive and engaging lessons and activities.

## Improvement measures

### Target year: 2024

SEF SaS reflects excelling in the theme of 'Explicit teaching' the the element of Effective Classroom Practice.

### Target year: 2024

50% increase in visitation by Aboriginal student groups undertaking cultural and educational programs delivered by Wooglemai EEC.

## Initiatives

### Partnerships

Partnerships are vital in the effective running of Wooglemai EEC. Connections with local schools, EZEC network, councils and AECG are important. To ensure that Culturally rich Curriculum is delivered we aim to:

- Strengthen partnerships with local AECG
- Deliver professional learning to staff from visiting schools
- Connect with councils to improve local sustainability networks
- Deliver Indigenous leadership camps - connecting with schools, community members, Aboriginal education and wellbeing officers, other EECs
- Maintain excellent standing in EZEC network through PL and leading PL at conferences
- Work productively with other non DoE groups connected with the school.

### Inclusive Outdoor Education

Providing opportunities for all students to access outdoor and sustainability education is a key component of Wooglemai EEC. Staff must maintain professional development and skills to lead students K-12. To implement inclusive outdoor education we aim to:

- Research best practice and up to date outdoor education principles and implement these in all programs.
- Continual professional learning in sustainability and outdoor education.
- Improve literacy links within outdoor education, develop outdoor literacy programs.
- Provide programs to many students and schools through effective marketing ensuring schools develop strong links with Wooglemai EEC.

## Success criteria for this strategic direction

The whole school community demonstrates aspirational expectations of learning progress and achievement for all students, and is committed to the pursuit of excellence. Effective partnerships in learning with parents and students mean students are motivated to deliver their best and continually improve.

Strengthened partnerships with local AECG, Indigenous leadership camps delivered.

The school is recognised as a leader for its impact on learning progress, its effective practices and continuous improvement, and its active support of (improvement in) other schools.

A whole school approach ensures the most effective evidence-based teaching methods optimise learning progress for all students, across the full range of abilities. Teachers employ evidence-based effective teaching strategies. Effective methods are identified, promoted and modelled, and students' learning improvement is monitored, demonstrating growth.

Outdoor Education programs contain explicit literacy links and outcomes.

## Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

Have we provided relevant, best practice informed educational experiences to all students. Do all programs have cultural relevance and are sustainability driven. Wooglemai EEC programs have added value and relevance to classroom based learning through inclusive and engaging lessons and activities.

Wooglemai will use the following data sources to regularly analyse the effectiveness of the initiatives:

- Student visitation numbers and new school uptake
- Pre and Post learning experience
- Student feedback
- Visiting teacher feedback

## Strategic Direction 2: Culturally Rich Curriculum

### Evaluation plan for this strategic direction

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- Wooglemai Staff feedback
- Teacher surveys/Classroom impact observations
- Engagement observations/Video/Photographs

Wooglemai staff will meet regularly to analyse data sources and evaluate future directions.