

## **Sustainability**

The Australian Curriculum has been written to equip young Australians with the skills, knowledge and understanding that will enable them to engage effectively with and prosper in a globalised world. With these considerations and the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* in mind, the curriculum gives special attention to three cross curriculum priorities:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures
- Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia
- [Sustainability.](#)

### **Sustainability addresses the ongoing capacity of Earth to maintain all life.**

Sustainable patterns of living meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Actions to improve sustainability are both individual and collective endeavours shared across local and global communities. They necessitate a renewed and balanced approach to the way humans interact with each other and the environment.

Education for sustainability develops the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living. It enables individuals and communities to reflect on ways of interpreting and engaging with the world. Sustainability education is futures-oriented, focusing on protecting environments and creating a more ecologically and socially just world through informed action. Actions that support more sustainable patterns of living require consideration of environmental, social, cultural and economic systems and their interdependence.

<http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/CrossCurriculumPriorities/Sustainability>



### **Key ideas**

#### **Biodiversity**

**Biodiversity refers to the variety of life and the ecosystems they form.**

#### **Waste**

**Waste includes all materials for which a person no longer has any use.**

#### **Water**

**A substance that is vital for sustaining all life on earth.**

#### **Energy**

**Energy helps us do things. It gives us light. It bakes cakes, powers our TVs and our cars. It makes us grow and move and think. It is the ability to do work.**



