

**WMAA QWEG Strategic Plan 2011-2015**  
**Waste Management Association of Australia QLD Waste Educators Group**

**What is QWEG?**

The Queensland Waste Educators Group (QWEG) is a peak group of waste educators providing support, professional development and networking opportunities for individuals involved in the waste industry. Members of the group include waste educators working on behalf of local and state government, consultancies, industry, educational facilities and waste contractors addressing issues associated with sustainable waste management.

QWEG is a working group of the QLD branch of the Waste Management Association of Australia (WMAA) and are represented by a committee member in QLD WMAA Branch monthly meetings and in the National Waste Educators Division (NWED).

QWEG members join the group through networking or working in a waste education or promotional role. Contact details for the current QWEG committee are listed on the WMAA QWEG webpage along with the meeting agendas, minutes and bi-monthly Wrap-Ups: <http://wmaa.asn.au/director/workinggroups/qld/educators.cfm>

QWEG meets quarterly. Meetings are hosted by educators at a range of venues across SE QLD. Members unable to attend the meetings including those from central, northern and regional QLD are invited to teleconference into the quarterly meetings and are emailed all meeting agendas and minutes.

QWEG meetings are a valuable forum for networking and discussion and for sharing information on government, non-government and industry waste programs. Members are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible and to participate in the discussion and decision-making process. QWEG welcomes new members making the group relevant to the needs of waste educators and other professional group members and to assist in building and strengthening links across all aspects of the waste industry.

**Purpose**

The coordination of a unified approach to community education and engagement in sustainable waste management and waste minimisation issues.

## **Goal 1: Network and support group to communicate best practice waste education**

**Objective 1.1:** Provide ongoing support and assistance to all QWEG members.

**Objective 1.2:** Promote best practice waste education through greater cooperation, communication, recognition, information exchange, networking, knowledge and experience sharing.

**Objective 1.3:** Identify learning opportunities for QWEG members to enhance the practical application of behavioural change and sustainability.

### **Actions:**

- Promote best practice in waste education through collation of case studies.
- Continue quarterly 'Wrap-Ups' as a tool for promoting best practice waste education.
- Invite 'guest speakers' (both internal and external to QWEG) to attend and present at quarterly QWEG meetings.
- For members to take responsibility for regularly updating the LG Toolbox SE QLD Waste Management Group site with copyright protected materials and resources.

## **Goal 2: Ensure waste education is an integral part of public policy**

**Objective 2.1:** Provide opportunities to advance waste education as a profession through development of working relationships and strategic partnerships.

**Objective 2.2:** Influence and provide input and feedback on public policy including State waste strategies and broader waste related campaigns.

### **Actions:**

- To promote communication between waste education practitioners and key stakeholders through the development of strategic partnerships.
- To provide submissions into relevant public policies, business plans and strategies (either as individuals or as a group).
- To update QWEG members on the work of other reference groups/ working groups within the waste management industry in Queensland.

- Promote the wider activities of the WMAA to QWEG members and participate in WMAA meetings dedicated to waste education or as a waste education representative.

### **Goal 3: Enhance the ability of waste educators to deliver best practice waste education**

**Objective 3.1:** Provide opportunities for continuing professional development for waste educators

**Objective 3.2:** Identify the professional development needs of waste educators

**Objective 3.3:** Promote opportunities by providing information on workshops, training sessions, seminars and conferences.

#### **Actions:**

- Distribute information regarding workshops, training opportunities, seminars and conferences.
- Invite 'guest speakers' (both internal and external to QWEG) to attend and present at quarterly QWEG meetings.
- Partner with WMAA to discuss funding opportunities to assist North, Central and regional Qld educators to attend at least one QWEG meeting per year.
- Promote QWEG as an entity at relevant conferences using trade display presence or through presentation during a conference program.
- Organise tours to waste related facilities/ locations.

### **Goal 4: Raise the profile of the role of educators and waste education in promoting waste minimisation and reduction of consumption strategies to ensure education is integrated into all aspects of the waste management/ and resource recovery sector statewide and across Australia.**

**Objective 4.1:** Facilitate networking and information sharing with the National Waste Educators Division (NWED).

**Objective 4.2:** Encourage proactive QWEG membership through the promotion and facilitation of regular quarterly QWEG meetings.

**Objective 4.3:** Participate in WMAA QLD Branch monthly meetings and quarterly Sundowner meetings to promote waste education programs and raise the profile of education professionals.

**Objective 4.4:** Develop a working partnership with Education Queensland to raise the profile of waste education and to investigate opportunities for integrating waste education programs and resources into the National Curriculum.

**Actions:**

- QWEG representative (Chair or Vice-Chair) to participate in bi-monthly teleconferences with NWED.
- QWEG representative (Chair or Vice-Chair) to attend annual face-to-face with NWED representatives.
- QWEG representative (Chair or Vice-Chair) to feedback information from NWED networking with QWEG members during quarterly meetings.
- QWEG representative (Chair or Vice-Chair) to participate in monthly WMAA QLD branch meeting and provide updates on QWEG and NWED.
- Add an Education Qld representative to QWEG's mailing list and invite this representative to attend QWEG meetings.
- Investigate opportunities to promote QWEG through Education Queensland's *Education Views* newsletter and integrating sustainability and waste education in the National Curriculum.
- Continue to promote QWEG quarterly meetings via email and networking opportunities.
- Encourage attendance at quarterly QWEG meetings and investigate opportunities for attracting new members.