 **Environmental Sustainability Philosophy**

*If you are thinking a year ahead, plant a seed.*

*If you are thinking a decade ahead, plant a tree.*

*If you are thinking a century ahead, educate the people.*

*(Chinese Proverb)*

**Rationale**

Waratah Public School Preschool is committed to encouraging and increasing the awareness of sustainable practices and respect for the environment, through engagement in sustainable practices. Children, families and educators will be supported to be environmentally responsible within the preschool environment and encouraged to extend these practices outside of the service.

**Educators will:**

* model sustainable and environmentally responsible practices.
* embed practices in the daily preschool routine.
* involve children in decision making processes and discussions about practices.
* keep families informed about sustainable practices being explored within the service.
* discuss sustainable practices with families and children as part of the preschool curriculum
* reflect on sustainable practices during staff meetings.
* aim to purchase resources which are made from natural products and reduce the amount of plastic and/or disposable resources.
* promote involvement in Planet-Ark endorsed activities, such as National Tree Day, Clean up Australia Day, World Environment Day, and National Recycling Week, to families and children.
* support children in developing vegetable gardens and developing an understanding of lifecycles.
* collaborate with the local council to discuss sustainability and the environment.
* apply for applicable environmental grants to improve the outcomes for children’s learning.

**Children will:**

* engage in environmental projects with school-based horticulture staff.
* participate in sustainable practices, such as saving water, monitoring food waste and energy usage, recycling, composting, and maintaining the worm farm.
* Learning about the worm farm, suitable foods, using worm-wee for fertilising plants.
* Planting, maintaining, and harvesting food in vegetable gardens.
* Beautifying the physical environment.

**Families will be:**

* invited to share sustainable practices used in the home and suggest ideas for implementation at preschool.
* supported to reduce waste in lunchboxes.
* invited to contribute recyclable materials for craft (boxes, tin cans etc).
* provided with information regarding energy efficiency, saving water, reducing rubbish and recycling.
* kept informed about sustainable practices and projects being undertaken at the preschool via our social media outlets.