

Tinana State School

**The Role of the Tinana State School
Eco-Committee**

* Leading the Eco-Schools program
* Representing the whole school and wider community interests
* Ensuring that the entire school knows about Eco-Schools and will receive regular updates
* Developing, implementing and monitoring the school’s SEMP that addresses the environmental concerns of the school community
* Taking the lead in carrying out the initial and subsequent Environmental Reviews (Step 2 of the Eco-Schools Methodology)
* Ensuring that all members of the school community (especially students) are represented in the decision-making process
* Providing a link between students, teachers, administration and the entire school community and, ideally, the Local Community, integrating the program within the School Improvement Plan.

**Who should be on the Eco-Committee?**

There is not one way to set up the committee. Our committee has grown from a group that is already active in the school and has been set up this year through sustainability squad representative nominations from the grades 3-6. Students should always be represented in the committee and selected from their peers after the prospective candidates explain why they are volunteering to be on the committee (this is done in front of the squad). These students are elected so that they represent the whole school.

The Committee represents the views of the wider, local community as well as the whole school. Members include:

* it is essential that students have a high representation on the committee
e.g. Sustainability Squad Captain and Representatives
* a member of the P&C
* other teachers
* a parent or guardian
* non-teaching staff, e.g. the groundsman, facilities manager, business manager, tuckshop convenor or health educator
* a representative from the local community (Fraser Coast Regional Council Waste Education Officer and Wide Bay Water)
* a representative from a local environmental organisation

**How is the Eco-Committee organised?**

The committee meets once a term on Wednesday in week 7 at 8am. During big projects such as the Sustainability School Symposium, the committee may meet more regularly.

Committee keeps records of their decisions in the form of minutes. These are shared at school management meetings and P&C meetings, and with all classes/year groups and displayed on an Eco-Schools notice board (in library) as well as in the school fortnightly Newsletter - *Tintaks*. Key issues will be raised at school Parade and with the wider community when possible. Wherever possible, it is recommended that students carry out the minuting process and the subsequent dissemination of information.

The sense of democracy involved, and the motivation in resolving initiatives brought forth by the students themselves are products of this process.

The committee will ensure the continuity of Committee plans and knowledge from one school year to the next. Student members could, for example, serve a 1.5 year term with an overlapping ‘handover’ phase to make sure that new Committee members are not ‘starting from scratch’. Continuity planning is also essential to ensure that a school’s eco work survives if a key member of staff leaves the school.

**Tinana State School Eco-Committee Criteria**

* Tinana State School **Eco-Committee** meets **Wednesday 8:00AM Week 7 every term**,
* **Members** include: Sustainability Captain, Sustainability Representatives (Grades 4-6), Lower/Upper School Teaching Staff Representatives, The Principal or Principal’s representative, a parent, Business Services Manager, Groundsman, Non-Teaching Staff
* **Minutes** are kept of meetings and **progress reported** back to class and school **administration**
* Students take **significant responsibility** for running the committee, e.g. chairing, voting, taking minutes. (At teachers’ discretion, based on age and ability of pupils involved.)
* A list or photo of the committee members is **displayed** in school and there is an agreed method for electing and training new members to ensure **continuity** of the Eco-Committee.