# Wetlands Environmental Education Centre

## Stage 6

### Geography: Ecosystems at Risk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KLA</th>
<th>Geography</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outcomes</strong></td>
<td>Geography, HSC Course - Ecosystems at Risk (H2, H5, H9, H10)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
<td>Ecosystems, interactions, distribution and abundance, and management issues</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location</strong></td>
<td>Hunter Wetlands Centre, 412 Sandgate Rd, Shortland, Newcastle</td>
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<td><strong>Site Description</strong></td>
<td>Wetlands EEC is located at the Hunter Wetlands Centre, which is a managed wetland reserve with natural and artificial water features accessed by decks and established walking tracks. The site is classified as part of the Hunter Estuary Ramsar Site under the International Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar). The Wetlands EEC is a school and staff are trained teachers specialising in Environmental Education. Wetlands EEC have a purpose built education centre including theatre, wet room and classroom.</td>
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### Program Description

Students will investigate an aquatic ecosystem and calculate some of the factors which affect plant and animal life, identify conflicts in management for tourism and conservation, and analyse and summarise those aspects of the wetlands habitat which have been affected by people. Interpretation of maps and photographs over time.

**PowerPoint Introduction**

**Fieldwork including:**

- **Biophysical factors:** water and air temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, water depth, pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen. Use Data Loggers to test including salinity.
- **Distribution and abundance of pond animals**
- **Photographic interpretation** and GPS use
- **Interpreting data** from maps, satellite images

**Conclusion:** Issues balancing the management of tourism and conservation.

This program is usually delivered over 4hrs.

**The basic program will be changed to suit larger groups or weather conditions.**

Wetlands EEC teachers rely on the participation of visiting teachers to meet recommended supervision levels. Visiting teachers are ultimately responsible for behaviour of students, students with existing medical conditions or special needs.

### Excursion information

**What to bring:** Clipboard and pencils, recess and lunch, refillable water bottle, hat, sunscreen, comfortable, covered walking shoes plus any special requirements of the group. (Wet weather gear when necessary). Non-aerosol insect repellent is advisable.

*Pre-ordered light lunches only* are available for purchase in The Wetlands Centre’s café.

### Contact

**Website:** [http://www.wetlands-e.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.wetlands-e.schools.nsw.edu.au)

**Email:** wetlands-e.school@det.nsw.edu.au

**Ph:** 02 49558673