



# ENVS6405

## Australian Environmental Futures

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

*Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences*

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#### Disclaimer

Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

#### Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Dr Kerrie Tomkins

[kerrie.tomkins@mq.edu.au](mailto:kerrie.tomkins@mq.edu.au)

Contact via Email

12 Wallys Walk

By appointment

Lecturer

A/Prof Peter Davies

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Lecturer

Dr Greg Walkerden

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6 First Walk

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnv or MEnvPlan or MPlan or GradCertEnvPlan or GradDipEnv or GradCertEnv or MSusDev or GradDipSusDev or GradCertSusDev or MScInnovationEnvSc or MScInnovationGeologyGeophys

Corequisites

Co-badged status

### Unit description

This interdisciplinary unit critically examines key environmental, social, economic, cultural and political processes and relationships that underpin environmental management within and across urban, rural and remote areas of Australia. It focuses on three core aspects: the unique characteristics of the Australian environment and the need to manage impacts; the role of policy, planning and legislation as effective tools in environmental management; and the importance of implementing strategies that engage people as part of the solution to environmental problems. Contemporary examples, such as the management of river systems and managing bushfire regimes, are used to illustrate the complexity of environmental management. While hands-on practicals, field visits and assessment tasks support the development of technical and professional skills needed for careers in environmental science, policy, social science, planning and geography. The unit is accessible for students with degrees from a broad range of backgrounds, and develops foundational knowledge and skills relating to the environment and sustainability in order to facilitate higher level studies.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

**ULO1:** Combine different sources of data, information and own knowledge to analyse complex environmental management issues and impacts on the environment.

**ULO2:** Demonstrate an understanding of the role of environmental policy, planning and legislation in Australia, and how these are used to address environmental issues and impacts.

**ULO3:** Use inter-disciplinary approaches and show sound judgement in decision-making with respect to environmental management planning.

**ULO4:** Apply skills and knowledge to prepare materials and documents that are commonly used in environmental professions.

**ULO5:** Use written, verbal and digital forms of communication to present ideas and information clearly to different audiences, including government and community.

## General Assessment Information

### Assessment Criteria

Assessment at Macquarie University is standards-based, as outlined in the [Assessment Policy](#). This means that your work will be assessed against clear criteria, and these criteria (e.g in a rubric) will be made available when the assessment tasks are released to you on iLearn.

## Submission of Assessments

All assessments must be submitted online through Turnitin unless otherwise indicated. Links for the submission of each assessment will be available on iLearn.

You should always check that you have uploaded the correct file. If you have a problem, please email the Unit Convenor with your correct file. You must also keep a copy of your assessments until the end of semester in case there is a problem with your submission. It is your responsibility to ensure that you can provide a copy of your assessment if requested.

## Marking of Assessments

Assessments will be marked through Turnitin with grades provided through Gradebook on iLearn. Please do not submit your assessments via email or in hard copy unless requested (e.g. a sketch or drawing).

We aim to return your assessment grades and feedback within two to three weeks of the date that you submitted. We appreciate your patience and will advise you through iLearn when your marked assessments and feedback are available for viewing.

## Penalties for Late Assessments

The penalty for late submission of assessments in this unit is ten percent (10 %) of the assessment value per day, calculated from the due time and date. This means that if the assignment is worth a total of 30 marks (or 30 % of the unit) you will lose 3 marks for each day late. This is a hefty penalty designed to make you aware of the importance of organising yourself around assessment due dates. The penalty will be applied over weekdays and weekends unless you have been granted an extension prior to the due date.

## Extensions for Assessments

To obtain an extension for an assessment task, you will need to follow the formal process as outlined in the [Special Consideration Policy](#), and you must provide appropriate supporting evidence (e.g. medical certificate - see advice for [Special Consideration](#) requests). The final decision regarding the granting of an extension lies with the unit convenor. Permission for extensions must be sought **before the due date** unless there are exceptional circumstances. Please let us know of problems in advance or as soon as possible, not after the event. We are likely to be much more sympathetic and able to accommodate your circumstance if you follow this advice.

**There is no exam in this unit.**

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Environmental management question</a>	20%	No	Fri 21 Aug
<a href="#">Council business paper</a>	35%	No	Fri 18 Sept

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Project proposal	10%	No	Week 9 workshops
Plan of Management	35%	No	Fri 6 Nov

## Environmental management question

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Case study/analysis

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **Fri 21 Aug**

Weighting: **20%**

This assessment requires students to use different types of maps and additional data to answer a real-world environmental management question.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Combine different sources of data, information and own knowledge to analyse complex environmental management issues and impacts on the environment.
- Apply skills and knowledge to prepare materials and documents that are commonly used in environmental professions.
- Use written, verbal and digital forms of communication to present ideas and information clearly to different audiences, including government and community.

## Council business paper

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **Fri 18 Sept**

Weighting: **35%**

This assessment requires students to critically review several different Australian local government business papers, and prepare their own business paper for a given topic.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of environmental policy, planning and legislation in Australia, and how these are used to address environmental issues and impacts.

- Apply skills and knowledge to prepare materials and documents that are commonly used in environmental professions.
- Use written, verbal and digital forms of communication to present ideas and information clearly to different audiences, including government and community.

## Project proposal

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Presentation

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 5 hours

Due: **Week 9 workshops**

Weighting: **10%**

This assessment requires students to prepare and present a project proposal for their draft Plan of Management

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply skills and knowledge to prepare materials and documents that are commonly used in environmental professions.
- Use written, verbal and digital forms of communication to present ideas and information clearly to different audiences, including government and community.

## Plan of Management

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Practice-based task

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **Fri 6 Nov**

Weighting: **35%**

This assessment requires students to write a Plan of Management for a local site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Use inter-disciplinary approaches and show sound judgement in decision-making with respect to environmental management planning.
- Apply skills and knowledge to prepare materials and documents that are commonly used in environmental professions.
- Use written, verbal and digital forms of communication to present ideas and information clearly to different audiences, including government and community.

<sup>1</sup> If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

## Delivery and Resources

### Unit iLearn

This unit has an iLearn page that can be accessed through [ilearn.mq.edu.au](http://ilearn.mq.edu.au). It contains important information and other materials relating to the course, including details and links for assessments.

### Communication

The unit iLearn is the primary way that we communicate with you. Please check it regularly for announcements and posts. You are encouraged to use the Discussion Board on iLearn to post questions and generate discussion with other students. Please only email the convenor with private matters - all other questions should be posted on iLearn.

### Unit Organisation and Unit Schedule

This unit is organised into three modules:

- Module 1 - Australia's unique environment and the need to manage impacts. This module examines some of the physical environmental management challenges posed by people and Australia's unique environment, such as the impacts of bushfire management on vegetation communities, and the impacts of urban areas on streams.
- Module 2 - Role of environmental legislation and policy. This module focuses on how law and policy impacts on the environment through strategic planning, statutory development assessments and day-to-day decision-making. This module will tie together your understanding of the physical environment and some of the tools that are used to prevent or manage environmental impacts.
- Module 3 - Politics, management and the environment. This module explores several themes in environmental management and decision-making including: environmental management systems, stakeholder engagement, negotiation, integration and political advocacy. This module will demonstrate the social/political challenges and complexities of environmental management.

The content in the unit is conveyed through weekly lectures and workshops. The organisation of

these is outlined in a detailed unit schedule which is available on iLearn.

We use multiple approaches in teaching and delivery, including blended learning and experiential learning, such as reading texts, watching videos, listening to audio resources, visiting field sites, participating in class activities and online discussion forums. The emphasis is on enabling students to understand and apply various techniques used in environmental management.

### **Class Timetable**

The class timetable for this unit can be found through the [Timetable](#) portal. Due to the COVID-disruption, all lectures in the unit will be online this semester. Students enrolled in the Weekday attendance offering (Internal) will need to attend on-campus for the workshops, unless you opt for the online workshops. Students enrolled in the Infrequent attendance offering (External) will need to attend the weekly online workshops via Zoom. These will also be recorded.

Please check the unit schedule carefully as some weeks may have other instructions or require you to meet in a different location. Any updates or changes to the unit or classes will be announced through iLearn.

### **Workload**

The expected workload for this 10 credit point unit is 150 hours of activity, comprising of lectures, workshops, completion of assessments and individual study.

### **Requirements to complete this unit satisfactorily**

To complete this unit satisfactorily, you must:

1. Attend all scheduled classes;
2. Complete all assessments; and
3. Achieve a pass grade or higher.

The descriptions for grades common to all coursework units offered by Macquarie University are outlined in [Schedule 1 of the Assessment Policy](#).

### **Recommended Texts and/or Materials**

There is no specific textbook for this unit. You will be required to research information independently and consult a wide variety of information sources to aid your learning in this unit.

### **Referencing**

In this unit, the preferred style of referencing is Harvard (author, date). For further details on the Harvard style, go to: <https://libguides.mq.edu.au/referencing/Harvard>

### **Technology Used and Required**

This unit will use iLearn and Echo360. See the [Instructions on how to log in to iLearn](#) and the iLearn quick guides for students which will help you:

- [Getting started](#) - Find out how to navigate and familiarise yourself with the iLearn environment



- [Activities](#) - Learn how to effectively complete the activities required of you in iLearn
- [Assignments and Gradebook](#) - Find out how to submit assessments and view your grades using iLearn
- [Online study tips](#) - Studying online is a unique experience, learn how to navigate it here
- [Discussion forums](#) - Explore the different types, and features of discussion forums in iLearn
- [Lecture recordings](#) - Find out how to access lectures online, as well as the features available to you

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the

University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](#) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](#)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.