



# ENVS6405

## Australian Environmental Futures

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2024

*School of Natural Sciences*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor

Kerrie Tomkins

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

Contact via Contact via Email

By appointment

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

ENV52467

Unit description

This interdisciplinary unit critically examines the key processes and relationships that underpin environmental protection, management and sustainability 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, planning and management. 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 and sustainability 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

### Requirements to Pass this Unit

To pass this unit you must:

- Attempt all assessments, and
- Achieve a total mark equal to or greater than 50%.

### 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 and instructions 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.

### Late Assessment Submission Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark of the task) will be applied for each day a written report or presentation assessment is not submitted, up until the 7<sup>th</sup> day (including weekends). After the 7<sup>th</sup> day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. The submission time for all uploaded assessments is **11:55 pm**. A 1-hour grace period will be provided to students who experience a technical concern. For any late submission of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, please apply for [Special Consideration](#).

## Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

- Environmental Management Question – YES, Standard Late Penalty applies
- Environmental Assessment Report - YES, Standard Late Penalty applies
- Stakeholder Debate - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted
- Exam - NO, unless Special Consideration is Granted

## Special Consideration

The [Special Consideration Policy](#) aims to support students who have been impacted by short-term circumstances or events that are serious, unavoidable and significantly disruptive, and which may affect their performance in assessment. If you experience circumstances or events that affect your ability to complete the assessments in this unit on time, please inform the convenor and submit a Special Consideration request through [ask.mq.edu.au](mailto:ask.mq.edu.au).

## Marking of Assessments

Assessments will usually 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.

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

## Final Exam

The Final Exam in this unit will be a 2-hour on-campus, invigilated exam held during the University Exam Period. The draft exam timetable will be released approximately 8 weeks before the commencement of the exam period, with the final exam timetable published around 4 weeks before commencement. All students (including exchange students) are expected to present themselves for the exam at the time and place designated in the exam timetable. Details of exam conditions and materials allowed will be able closer to the date via the Exam Portal.

For unavoidable disruptions during exams, you should apply for [Special Consideration](#) as soon as possible. If a Supplementary Exam is granted as a result of the Special Consideration process, the supplementary exam time will be scheduled after the conclusion of the official examination period and you will receive an individual notification with the date and time. You will only be allowed one opportunity to sit the Supplementary Exam as outlined in the [Special Consideration Policy](#).

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Environmental management question</a>	20%	No	Sun 18 Aug, 11:55 pm
<a href="#">Environmental assessment report</a>	30%	No	Sun 22 Sept, 11:55 pm
<a href="#">Stakeholder debate</a>	20%	No	Week 12 prac

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Exam</u>	30%	No	Exam period, TBA

## Environmental management question

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

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

Due: **Sun 18 Aug, 11:55 pm**

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.

## Environmental assessment report

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

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

Due: **Sun 22 Sept, 11:55 pm**

Weighting: **30%**

This assessment requires students to conduct an environmental assessment for a local site and present the findings in a report to Council.

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.

## Stakeholder debate

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 15 hours

Due: **Week 12 prac**

Weighting: **20%**

This assessment requires students to work in groups to prepare and present a case for their stakeholder.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Use inter-disciplinary approaches and show sound judgement in decision-making with respect to environmental management and sustainability 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.

## Exam

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

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

Due: **Exam period, TBA**

Weighting: **30%**

Final exam covering the unit material.

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.
- 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.

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

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<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

### Class Timetable

The class timetable for this unit can be found through Class Finder: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/enrolling/create-timetable>

All lectures in the unit are online via Zoom. The lectures will be interactive with time at the end for Q&A and discussion. Recordings of the lectures will be made available on Echo360. However, you are strongly encouraged to attend the live zoom so that you can actively participate in the discussion with your fellow students.

The practicals will be held on-campus - **these are NOT 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.

### Week 1 Classes

Lectures will commence in Week 1. There are no practicals in Week 1, instead these will commence from Week 2.

### Methods of Communication and Course Materials

This unit has an iLearn page that can be accessed through [ilearn.mq.edu.au](https://ilearn.mq.edu.au). It contains important information and all the materials relating to the unit, including the unit guide, unit schedule, instructions and links for assessments, the weekly lecture slides and prac instruction sheets.

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. For private matters, please send a Private message to the Unit Contact. The links for these are in the Communications folder on the iLearn page.

### Unit Organisation and Unit Schedule

This unit is organised into three modules:

- **Module 1 - Australia's unique environment and the need to manage the impacts of people on the environment.** This module examines some of the physical environmental management challenges posed by people and Australia's unique environment. For example, the impacts of bushfire management on vegetation communities, and the impacts of urban areas on streams.
- **Module 2 - The role of policy, planning and legislation as effective tools in environmental protection and management.** This module focuses on how policy, planning and legislation impacts on the environment through strategic planning, development controls 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 in urban areas.
- **Module 3 - The importance of implementing strategies that engage people as part of the solution to environmental problems.** This module explores several themes in environmental management and decision-making including, ways of engaging people in environmental protection and management issues, identifying stakeholders, negotiation and the decision-making processes that are used to resolve environmental conflicts. This module will demonstrate the social/political challenges and complexities of environmental management.

The content in the unit is conveyed through weekly lectures and practicals. 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.

### **Workload**

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

### **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 APA. For further details on the APA style, go to: [https://libguides.mq.edu.au/APA7\\_referencing](https://libguides.mq.edu.au/APA7_referencing)

### **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

### **Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)**

GenAI poses a serious risk for academic integrity. The Macquarie University Library has produced a guide for students on using Generative AI: <https://libguides.mq.edu.au/generativeai>. The guide contains sections on GenAI at MQ and Using GenAI ethically which explains the academic integrity issues, as well as the limitations and reliability of GenAI outputs.

In this unit, GenAI is permitted to be used to help gain a general understanding of the concepts covered in the unit and other background knowledge about the environment and environmental issues (similar to doing a google search). It should not be used to create work that is submitted as part of an assessment - all assessable work must be your own. The penalties for inappropriate use of GenAI are similar to plagiarism, collusion and contract cheating.

## **Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about

throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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](https://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

## Student Support

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

## The Writing Centre

[The Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

## Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

## 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.

## Changes from Previous Offering

We value student feedback to be able to continually improve the way we offer our units. As such, we encourage students to provide constructive feedback via student surveys (e.g. LEU's), as well as to the teaching staff directly, or via the FSE Student Experience & Feedback link in the iLearn page.

Student feedback from the previous offering of this unit was very positive overall, with students pleased with the clarity around assessment requirements and the level of support from teaching staff. As such, no change to the delivery of the unit is planned, however we remain committed to continuous improvement across all aspects of learning and teaching in this unit.

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Unit information based on version 2024.01R of the [Handbook](#)