



# ENVS8418

## Environmental Planning

Session 2, In person-scheduled-weekday, North Ryde 2026

*School of Natural Sciences*

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#### **Disclaimer**

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## General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MEnv or MEngMgt or MPlan or MSusDev or GradDipEnv or GradCertEnv or GradCertEnvPlan or MConsBiol or GradDipConsBiol or GradDipRes or GradCertRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit focuses on the issues influencing environmental planning and policy in Australia. It examines contemporary policy and practice affecting areas such as strategic land, biodiversity, water, mining and transport planning. There is a strong emphasis on the development and enhancement of critical analysis and constructive review of plans and policies and the development of practical skills used and required by professionals working in the field of environmental management and planning. The unit includes a field trip where students will learn and apply a range of techniques that are used to develop urban policies and plans.

Learning in this unit enhances student understanding of global challenges identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ([UNSDGs](#)) Sustainable Cities and Communities; Life on Land

## 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:** critically assess environmental theory, plans and policies across multiple scales and jurisdictions

**ULO2:** apply environmental and planning law and policy and planning skills to the decision-making process of government and industry

**ULO3:** identify and critically evaluate the interests, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in environmental planning decisions

**ULO4:** demonstrate individual and group-based skills in research and writing for different target audiences

## General Assessment Information

### Assessment Tasks

1. Reflection on first 4 weeks (30%). This will focus on the lecture, tutorial and readings.
2. Group assignment (30%).
3. Briefing report + small group presentation (40%) – relate to one topic presented over the course of the unit.

### Assessment guide

Assignments are the means used to assess if you have reached the learning outcomes for the unit. The criteria by which the assignment will be marked are made clear in each case. **As a rough guide, 10 marks is equivalent to about 10 hours of quality work.**

Evidence of wide and comprehensive reading is required, drawing on journals, international examples, thought pieces, and reports. All ideas must be cited inclusive of the source/author. See notes on academic honesty in the Unit Guide. Unless otherwise stated in the detailed assessment guide, any recognised referencing style may be used so long as it is consistent and accurate.

Detailed information on the assessment's tasks, marking criteria, and supporting resources will be provided via the iLearn site. Assessment marks and feedback will generally be provided within 3 weeks after submission.

### Submitting assignments

All assignments must be submitted electronically on the iLearn site.

Each assignment has a separate upload site. The assignment site will usually be a 'Turnitin', where your work is reviewed for similarity to websites, articles or other students' work. If you have not given credit for ideas used to the author or source you will be penalised (failure of the

assignment and reporting to a disciplinary committee to determine whether you have breached the [University's Academic Integrity Policy](#). See information on academic honesty on the iLearn site and techniques on how to avoid common plagiarism errors at: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/academic-integrity>

## **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. Refer to details about [Assessments at Macquarie](#) for further information.

## **Marking of Assessments**

Assignments 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 (e.g. a sketch or drawing).

We aim to return your assessment grades and feedback within four 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.

## **Penalties for Late Assessments**

A late Assessment Submission Penalty policy applies to all written assessments. Please see <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/assessments> for more information.

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted.

*Submission time for all written assessments is set at **11:55 pm**.* A 1-hour grace period is 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, students need to apply for Special Consideration.

Assessments where Late Submissions will be accepted

## **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 circumstances if you follow this advice.

## Assessment Tasks

| Name             | Weighting | Hurdle | Due        | Groupwork/Individual | Short Extension | AI Approach |
|------------------|-----------|--------|------------|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Reflection       | 30%       | No     | 23/08/2026 | Individual           | Yes             | Open        |
| Group assignment | 30%       | No     | 08/10/2026 | Individual and Group | No              | Observed    |
| Briefing report  | 40%       | No     | 02/11/2026 | Individual           | Yes             | Open        |

### Reflection

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Reflection task

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

Due: **23/08/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Reflective report focusing on the content and learning outcomes of the first module and how this will inform the future assessment tasks

On successful completion you will be able to:

- critically assess environmental theory, plans and policies across multiple scales and jurisdictions
- apply environmental and planning law and policy and planning skills to the decision-making process of government and industry
- identify and critically evaluate the interests, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in environmental planning decisions

### Group assignment

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

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 25 hours

Due: **08/10/2026**

Weighting: **30%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual and Group

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: No

AI Approach: Observed

Prepare as a small group project a report or strategy based on an authentic task and write a personal reflection on the process.

Sparkplus is used to provide an individual score based on the quality of the group task. Individual scores are determined through specific questions where students in the group assess each other and also provide a self-assessment of their contribution. Written comments are also required to validate the numeric scores.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- critically assess environmental theory, plans and policies across multiple scales and jurisdictions
- apply environmental and planning law and policy and planning skills to the decision-making process of government and industry
- identify and critically evaluate the interests, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in environmental planning decisions
- demonstrate individual and group-based skills in research and writing for different target audiences

## Briefing report

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Written Submission

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

Due: **02/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension <sup>3</sup>: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Write a briefing report for a government agency on a topical environmental policy or planning issue (35% of marks) and present your report in small groups (5% of marks).

On successful completion you will be able to:

- critically assess environmental theory, plans and policies across multiple scales and jurisdictions
- apply environmental and planning law and policy and planning skills to the decision-making process of government and industry
- identify and critically evaluate the interests, roles and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in environmental planning decisions
- demonstrate individual and group-based skills in research and writing for different target audiences

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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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

<sup>3</sup> An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

## Delivery and Resources

Class: Monday 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM Room 01CC 107 Groupwork Lecture Space, Sir Christopher Ondaatje Ave, Wallumattagal Campus, North Ryde.

The class is delivered as a face-to-face lecture and tutorial-style class – note this is not an online nor taught as a hybrid class.

The format will generally be of an interactive lecture / workshop in which there will be various individual and small group activities. In-class activities and discussions will be designed to support your assessment tasks.

There is a **full-day field trip on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026**. This forms a central part of the unit and links directly to one of your assessment tasks.

ENV58418 is a core unit for the Master of Environmental Management and is approved for inclusion in several study programs including the Master of Environmental Law and Master of Planning.

Knowledge, skills and experiences gained in this unit are useful for students who wish to pursue any career in government or consultancy related to environmental management, urban and regional planning and policy.

This unit focuses on the issues influencing environmental planning and policy in NSW, Australia, and draws on other national and international examples of environmental planning and policy.

The unit examines contemporary environmental policies and practices affecting areas such as strategic land, biodiversity, water, mining and transport planning. There is a strong emphasis on the development and enhancement of critical analysis and the constructive review of plans and policies. The unit is also designed to develop practical skills used and required by professionals working in the field of environmental management and planning.

### Weekly lectures and tutorial workshops

The unit is delivered in a face-to-face mode. The content is based on a 3-hour weekly lecture program, inclusive of class discussion and workshop activities. Supporting this content, students are required to complete core reading/s or other activities (e.g., listen to podcasts or watch videos) identified on the iLearn site.

### Field trip

There is a field trip mid semester to offer interactive and authentic learning linked to the unit's content and assessment tasks.

This is scheduled for **10<sup>th</sup> September**, 2024. This will be a full day and will be based within the Sydney area and accessible by public transport.

An exemption for attendance may be granted to students however this requires prior approval. Applications for exemptions are to be made prior to 30 August via the [Special Considerations](#) portal on the Student website.

## Teaching

The teaching process includes:

- Background reading/s or view of other materials (such as podcasts/TED talks)
- Lectures and short presentations to introduce and expand on concepts, theories and practice. These will be delivered by academics and guest presentations by environmental planning professionals
- Practical workshop sessions to provide opportunities for experiential learning on tasks and through discussion with other class members (preparation is essential)
- Student presentations of tasks to be either prepared in advance or given as part of a summary of your tutorial discussions
- A field trip to appreciate the practical, technical and socio-political aspects of environmental planning
- Assignments that require students to apply their theoretical understanding to practice
- Assignments provide opportunities for presenting in different formats, working with people of different skills and cultural perspectives.

Students are expected to:

- Actively participate in workshop activities in small groups
- Read set readings or review other materials as set in advance of classes
- Follow current developments with regard to environmental planning locally and internationally.

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.smq.edu.au) (<https://policies.smq.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 [connect.mq.edu.au](https://connect.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/>

## Academic Success

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

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

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Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)