These water education activities and suggestions aim to assist council and water service provider staff support their local school communities. They were adapted or developed from Queensland Waterwise Schools Program resources and are linked to the Australian Curriculum, suitable for students from Preparatory to Year 7. You will need to choose age appropriate activities and tailor your discussion to the appropriate year level.

Water-related topics are relevant to particular year levels and subject areas in the Australian Curriculum. This enables water service providers to target education, building teacher and student understanding about where drinking water comes from, where wastewater goes, how it is treated and the importance of using water efficiently. Some of these activities can be adapted for use with adults at community events.

Additional ideas were contributed by experienced water educators.

**Planning a school event**

Before your visit or site tour, ask the teacher for relevant background information about the students (see what you need to know). Note: if you are not an approved or registered teacher and you are working regularly with children, you will need to apply for a blue card.

**Background information for teachers**

Before the visit, send an email or an information pack to the teacher outlining what they need to know (see teacher information checklist).

**School incursions/ visits**

The following activities provide some ideas for working with classes in the school.

When you arrive at the school, it is important for legal reasons that you go straight to the office to let them know that you’ve arrived and to sign in. Some schools may ask for your Blue Card or teaching registration details.

**Guest speaking**

A guest speaking engagement in a local classroom is a relatively easy way to explain your local water story to students, teachers and their families. Before the visit, ask the teacher to provide background information (see what you need to know).

**Presentations**

If you don’t have much time or for a general introduction, you can tell your water story using a powerpoint presentation. Include lots of photos and videos (if available). Check with the teacher that you will have access to the equipment you need such as a computer, projector and speakers.

**Interviews**

If the teacher would like to use an interview format, ask them for some interview questions so you can prepare. The students could develop five or six questions as a class and email them to you beforehand. Read the Water journeys guest speaker.
activity for Year 7 Science or Year 7 Geography for ideas about how the activity might be structured. Remember to tailor your answers to the year level/age of the children.

Story book readings

Students of all ages enjoy stories. The following books were designed to explain how water travels through the environment, how water and wastewater is treated and how to use water efficiently.

Whizzy’s incredible journeys: is a pick-a-path book that tells about four separate journeys in which Whizzy the waterdrop travels through the water cycle and into the home.

Whizzy’s new adventures: Journey through the pipes: takes Whizzy on two different adventures to explain how water is treated as it travels to the home, is used and then treated again before returning to the environment. Using Whizzy’s new adventures storybook explains how to use the book to explain water and wastewater treatment to primary-aged students.

Posters and brochures

Using visual aids such as posters, brochures, maps, images or diagrams showing your local water treatment plants or processes is an effective way to teach about your water story. See link to educational resources (digital and hard copy) and guidelines for their use.

Using water efficiently

Bucket loads of savings: This engaging brochure shows how water can be saved around the home and can be a stand-alone item or is a great way of reinforcing ideas generated from the poster. The guidelines for use contain classroom activities for using the poster and links to other Waterwise curriculum resources.

Water cycle

The water cycle package: comprises two posters about the coastal water cycle (the water cycle and total water cycle management) and guidelines for use, covering background information, curriculum links and classroom activities.

The inland water cycle poster: provides a unique inland perspective on the natural and human aspects of the water story. The guidelines for use cover background information, curriculum links and classroom activities.

Water supply, treatment and distribution

Water’s journey to your tap and beyond brochure; provides a simple explanation of drinking water supply and sewage network. It lists those items that shouldn’t be washed down the sink or flushed down the toilet and how property owners can maintain the water and wastewater pipes on their property.

Games and activities

Buckets resource race is an outdoor relay game in which teams pass a cup of water from a central common bucket to another bucket at the end of their line. Participants experience what it feels like to compete for precious water resources and discuss how to manage water resources sustainably.

To flush or not to flush relay is a race can be played indoors or outdoors. Students work in teams to decide the correct place (rubbish bin, recycling or toilet) to put
various items. It’s a great way to reinforce how to correctly dispose of waste materials, particularly focusing on what materials can be flushed down the toilet.

Water use activity is a whole class activity that looks at water-saving and water-wasting. Students listen to a story about two characters and monitor how much water they use on different activities throughout the day.

The story of a river is a demonstration that visually reinforces the impact of catchment land uses on the health of a river.

The healthy catchment game shows students what should and shouldn’t be found in waterways.

**School excursions**

**Conducting site tours**

Site tours of water and wastewater treatment plants can provide powerful learning experiences for students. Conducting site tours of water and wastewater treatment plants gives helpful advice about how to plan, conduct and follow-up a school site tour. The site tour outline template provides a starting point for planning a tour of your plant.

**Competitions**

Your organisation could sponsor a Waterwise poster (or photo or short video) competition for the schools in your region. Organising a competition will assist you in planning the student competition and raising awareness about a key Waterwise issue in your community.