

# Biophysical Environments

## Stage 6 Geography



### Program Overview

The focus of the day is a geographical investigation of the biophysical processes that occur at three different vegetation communities and identify human impacts and management strategies at each site.

During the day, students will utilise geographical tools to increase their understanding of the nature and functioning of the four components of the biophysical environment within three different vegetation communities: mangroves, dry sclerophyll and remnant rainforest. Within each, the students will learn about a current or future human impact that may effect the functioning of the ecosystem and look at strategies for effective management of the issue.

### Learning Experiences

#### Investigation of vegetation communities

Students will investigate and compare 3 different vegetation communities. At each site, students will:

- identify dominant plants using ID books
- use appropriate equipment to measure biophysical features, including slope, aspect, light intensity, temperature, humidity, soil pH and soil temperature
- record observations of each layer of the vegetation

During the walk, the students will also:

- identify management strategies implemented by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other key stakeholders
- locate features on a map using, latitude and longitude, area and grid references
- gain an understanding of Aboriginal land use practices and places of special significance including midden caves and axe grinding grooves.

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### Key Syllabus Outcomes and Content

#### Geography

#### students learn about:

the biophysical environment

- the nature and functioning of the four components: the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere in a specific biophysical environment
- the interactions between, and the human impacts on, the functioning of the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere.

#### Students learn to:

#### investigate and communicate geographically by

- asking and addressing questions such as
  - what are the biophysical interactions which occur between components of the biophysical environment?
  - what are the effects of human impacts on the functioning of the hydrosphere
  - how is the biophysical environment changing in response to climatic variations