**Reflection**

St Paul’s School aims to provide programs and practices that care for our common home embedding within the school community a commitment to ecologically sustainable actions that promote and nurture ecological conversion.

Environmental education and action challenges our perception of teaching and school life, that we might be alert to and create opportunities through the integration of curriculum, prayer and liturgy, resource management, grounds management, whole school planning and school community that contributes to the betterment of our environment and our relationships with one another.

St Paul’s Catholic Parish Primary School is a one-stream school with an enrolment of approximately 187 students from Moss Vale and the surrounding Southern Highlands area. The school is a Catholic parish school and part of the Diocese of Wollongong system of schools, administered by the Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong and Bishop Brian Mascord.

Our school motto – originally “All to All” and currently “All to all in faith and learning” – comes from St Paul’s letter to the Corinthians (1 Cor 9:22). The school’s current emphasis of prayer, teaching and gratitude for God’s blessings continues to build on the foundations and charism of the Sisters of both St Joseph and the Dominicans.

In the spirit of Saint Paul the Apostle, part of the mission of the school is to provide a Catholic learning environment that engages with social justice issues and responds to the needs of others, exercising compassion and being environmental stewards. Every student, teacher and parent is encouraged to work together to care for our environment.

The staff at St Paul’s is committed to fostering a love of learning, preparing students to be active and responsible citizens and an integral part of this is how we look after and care for God’s creation which has been entrusted to us. We are inspired to continually grow in our own understanding of our responsibility to be wise and good stewards caring for our common home and taking care of the global family to which we belong.

This School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) will help us reflect on the writing of Pope Francis in Laudato Si’ and is a tool that will enable us to document, implement, reflect and celebrate sustainability as we respond to the challenges from Laudato Si’ to walk our own journey of ecological conversion. At St Paul’s we understand that we have a missionary and ecclesial mandate that impels us to participate and respond to the call to care for our common home with strategic planning, formation and concrete actions and it is within this context that this SEMP is formulated.

During previous SEMPs there was extensive building refurbishment that included the administration and entrance foyer, two classrooms and office spaces. During the previous refurbishment the previous garden spaces that included the large front yard, vegetable garden and chook pen were extensively damaged and is currently not in use. There will be more major building works occurring in the next few years which will impact the degree of ecological actions possible for this SEMP III.