



Wimmera leading the way with a new sustainability initiative

The inaugural three-day Leading the Way Forum starts today at Longerenong College with 80 students from Melbourne and the local region joining together to discuss, debate and negotiate positions on sustainability within the context of climate change and its impact on rural and urban communities.

The Forum is hosted by the Wimmera Southern Mallee Local Learning Employment Network and Local Community Partnership and is being delivered by Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability. The three-day event has been funded by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and is supported by a wide range of local community groups and organisations.

The students will start the Forum with a range of team building activities and sustainability presentations. They will then hear from eight local representatives on a range of topics from understanding the impact of drought conditions on the local community, to the building of the pipeline and its benefits, and

practising sustainable land management to conserve the region's unique flora and fauna.

The students will also visit a number of local sites to see real examples of people adapting to a changing environment. Students will carry out research on an important sustainability issue and present their findings in five-minute team presentations.

Tim Shaw, CEO of the Wimmera Southern Mallee LLEN says, "I am excited to see what comes out of this event. Not only will Melbourne kids be given the chance to see our region and what it has to offer, but local kids will be given the opportunity to take on leadership roles through an innovative program."

Pat Armstrong, from Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability, believes "This forum will act as a model for other regions around the state. We have already been approached by other groups to hold similar forums based on sustainability issues relevant to their region. We appreciate the tremendous support we have been given by

many individuals within the Wimmera region and we look forward to some fantastic results from the students involved."

The forum concludes Friday lunchtime when students will not only present their ideas on how water from the new Wimmera / Mallee Pipeline could be allocated, but also make a declaration about individual actions for a sustainable future.

For more information about the Forum contact either;

Andrew Cormack WSMLLEN & LCP Tel: 03 5381 0122 or email: andrew@llen.com.au
Jane Stewart TLfS Co-Founder Tel: 0411 838 033 or email: jane@sustain-ability-int.com or

Photo opportunities are available at Longerenong College at the following times:
26th November 10.30am – Guest speakers and students
27th November 12.20pm – Presentation of Declaration of Action by students

