

Media Release

12th October 2010



SHEPPARTON LEADS THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

Dr Kate Auty, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, will join not-for-profit organisation, Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability, to host their *Leading the Way Forum* in Shepparton from 20th-22nd October 2010

Approximately 100 students and teachers from schools across Victoria will come together at Shepparton's Dookie Campus from 20th to 22nd October 2010 to discuss, debate and negotiate positions on sustainability within the context of climate change and its impact on rural and urban communities.

The three-day *Forum*, which is a free event for participating schools, is an opportunity for students to learn about initiatives that address climate change and the issue of sustainable water management in northern Victoria. Participants will listen to presentations from local farmers and local water organisations about the challenges they face in managing their farms and businesses in the face of climate change. Students will venture out on field trips and visit local places of interest, including a tour of the local Rubicon factor and Waste Water Treatment Plant that will provide examples of old and new irrigation systems, water processing facilities, water sensitive urban design, a modern dairy farm and bio-remediation wetlands.

The *Forum* which also coincides with National Water Week activities, will see students join local water and natural resource management authorities to host an awards event on the evening of Wednesday 20th at the local Goulburn Valley Hotel. Students will set-up and manage a series of interactive displays to encourage all guests to understand a range of water issues and their impact communities.

Victoria's Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Dr Kate Auty, will be attending the *Forum* on 22nd October. "There is no better place to start meeting the climate change challenge than in schools. Education is a priority as the leaders of tomorrow are our young people," said Dr Auty.

The *Forum*, managed and coordinated by Jane Stewart and Pat Armstrong from Tomorrow's Leaders for Sustainability (TLfS) Inc. is supported by local businesses, the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority (CMA), the City of Greater Shepparton and urban and regional water authorities,

Jane Stewart, one of the Co-Founders of TLfS Inc. says, "It is important to understand the challenges and opportunities faced by all industries as a result of a changing climate. The *Leading the Way Forum* will help young people understand and appreciate the key issues of sustainability while participating in challenging activities that will greatly extend their understanding of leadership.

"Our *Forum* helps to develop sustainability education whilst developing knowledge and skills that promote behaviour in a fun, empowering and interactive environment."

For more information about the *Leading the Way* Forum contact:

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