



As with all public open spaces there are inherent dangers associated with the natural and urban environment. **Urrbrae Agricultural High School, Urrbrae Wetland and Mitcham Council** take staff and visitor safety seriously.

#### **Bookings:**

All excursions to the Urrbrae Wetland must be pre-booked, well in advance, to ensure learning objectives of the excursion can be met and all student needs are catered for. The teacher in charge of the excursion must ensure they are clear about the program details before embarking on the excursion, including 'duty of care' obligations and the role of the Education Officer (Wetland Manager). Programs can be booked by contacting the Wetland Manager via email or phone.

#### **Role of the Wetland Manager / Education Officer:**

The Wetland Manager is experienced and trained in delivering outdoor education safely and accompanies most classes when conducting field activities and will be on site while school groups are visiting. The Wetland Manager will highlight the WHS Policies and Procedures that need to be followed to ensure staff, student and visitor safety.

At the beginning of the excursion the Wetland Manager meets with the school group to highlight safety considerations, expectations and briefs each class on specific risks associated with the particular activities chosen for the excursion. These include appropriate actions they will need to preform to minimise the risks (this may change depending on daily circumstances e.g. weather, or onsite works).

#### **Role of the teacher in charge and accompanying staff and supervising adults:**

The Teacher in charge of the excursion **MUST** determine the level of supervision required and ensure that it is maintained for the duration of the excursion. Supervision requirements will be determined by considering:

- adherence to the Department for Education staff/student ratios
- age, development and needs of all students/children
- students/children with disabilities or special needs
- planned student/child learning outcomes
- nature of the activity
- reasonably predictable hazards
- time of day
- location and environment
- supervision level offered by other teachers, supervisors or instructors within the party.

Accompanying teachers must supervise their students in accordance with the DfE Policy. More information can be found in the 'Department for Education Camps and Excursions Guidelines'

<https://www.education.sa.gov.au/policies/shared/camps-and-excursions-policy.pdf>

All school excursions take place in the presence of the Wetland Manager. The accompanying school teachers have a 'Duty of Care' for their students. Student ratios for the wetland excursions are in accordance with the DfE Excursion Policy:

- 1 : 6 for preschool – year 2
- 1 : 10 for years 3 – 6
- 1 : 15 for years 7 – 12

**Please note that the Wetland Manager cannot be taken into account when calculating these ratios.**





All staff involved with visiting school groups are expected to undertake safety talks amongst themselves and with students before attending the activities at the Urrbrae Wetland.

**If a hazard is identified during your visit, please report it to the Wetland Manager who will take appropriate action.**

If the key teachers are unfamiliar with the Urrbrae Wetland, it is recommended that they contact the Wetland Manager and organise a site visit, so they can become familiar with the site and can identify any risk that may affect their specific student group.

**The Wetland Manager will work with teaching staff and other supervisors to ensure the safety of all students.**

**Risk Reduction Control Measures for school excursions to the Urrbrae Wetland include:**

Identified Risk	Risk Reduction Strategies
<p><b>Traffic Hazards</b></p> <p>Entry to Urrbrae Wetland</p> <p>Injury caused by road accident</p> <p>Presence of contractor vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pick up &amp; drop zones for bus transport is located inside the Main gate of the Urrbrae Wetland, Cross Rd.</li> <li>➤ If walking across Cross Road to enter the Wetland Main gates, all groups must cross at pedestrian lights located at either:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>the Cross Rd / Fullarton Road intersection</i> (800m east of main gate) or</li> <li>- <i>near West Tce</i> (200m west of main gate).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Supervising teachers and staff are to lead the groups down the path to the Learning Centre ensuring students walk next to, or behind their leader.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Vehicles must follow a strict speed limit of 10km per hour on site.</li> <li>➤ Licenced and competent bus drivers must park in the appropriate parking area INSIDE the main wetland gates before students disembark.</li> <li>➤ Teachers must actively supervise students at all times.</li> <li>➤ The Wetland Manager will inform contractors of school groups presence, and groups will avoid the areas contractors are working in.</li> </ul> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> Teachers &amp; accompanying adults / bus driver &amp; company / Wetland Staff / Contractors</p>
<p><b>Lost Students</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ All school / educational institutions MUST follow supervision ratios of 1 : 6 for preschool – year 2 (recommended 1:4 for preschools); 1 : 10 for years 3 - 6 and 1 : 15 for years 7-12</li> <li>➤ Ensure the students are mentally and physically prepared for walking around a 6ha site.</li> <li>➤ Teachers/supervising adults should employ effective supervision strategies at all times.</li> </ul> <p><b>For Example:</b> Identify meeting points (Wetland Learning Centre), make regular head counts, name badges, supervising staff to carry mobile phones with the Wetland Managers mobile number for direct contact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teachers / accompanying adults carry a site map, which displays the walking paths and infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff to provide a map.</p>



### Exposure to bodies of water

Sedimentation  
ponds & Main  
Pond

Falling in or  
getting wet  
during activities

- Swimming in or drinking water from the wetland is strictly prohibited.
- All boardwalks and inlets are fenced. Students must remain within the fenced areas. Students must not climb the fences.
- Students are warned at the beginning of the program about the dangers of the wetland water and how to safely behave around water ways.
- Students are only allowed at the water's edge when accompanied by a supervising adult and appropriate ratios must be adhered to.
- Hand washing facilities are available for students to wash their hands after each activity.
- In the very rare event that the water quality be deemed unsafe, excursions will be cancelled. The Wetland Manager will contact schools to reschedule.
- Aquatic rescue / lifesaving aids are located on the outside wall of the Learning Centre

**Responsibility:** Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff

### Slips Trips Falls

Slipping on paths

Tripping over  
tree roots

Skidding on  
tracks or  
boardwalks

- Climbing trees / gates / fences, etc is not allowed.
- Many of the paths are uneven and not sealed. Therefore, students are not to run around the Wetland. Students must wear enclosed, flat, footwear. When on tour with the Wetland Manager, students must walk at the same pace alongside or behind the Manager.
- Students must keep to the designated paths and listen to the Wetland Manager's instruction as to whether they need to walk in single file or as a group.
- Teachers ensure students are actively supervised at all times.
- Paths are regularly maintained by Council Volunteers.
- All schools are required to carry their own First Aid Kit and ensure at least one visiting teacher has current first aid qualifications (BELS).
- The Urrbrae Education Centre has a Senior First Aid officer on site at all times. They can be contacted by calling 8274 7455.

**Responsibility:** Teacher / accompanying adults / Wetland Staff / Council volunteer / Snr First Aid Officer

### Exposure to plants

High pollen  
counts

Prickly Plants

- There are many flowering plants at the Wetland (particularly in August – November), these may be a hazard for students suffering hay fever. The teacher in charge must identify any students that have severe allergies to flowering plants and the Wetland Manager will then use alternate routes.
- Supervising staff to ensure medication and health care plans for high-risk students are easily accessible.
- Wetland Staff will highlight the plants with spines (*Acacia paradoxa*) and students are to take extra care when walking past these plants.

**Responsibility:** Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff



### Exposure to insects and small animals

Bites or stings from bees, ants, mosquitoes or reptiles

Swooping birds

Scats

- Hand washing facilities are available within the vicinity and students must wash their hands at the end of all activities.
- The Wetland Manager will explain the correct and safe method of collecting and sampling invertebrates as well as identify any which may be poisonous and not to be touched.
- Please notify the Wetland Manager if any students have anaphylaxis / allergies to insect bites.
- Supervising staff to ensure that these students have epi-pen, medication and medical plans easily accessible.
- All students are supervised. The Wetland Manager will highlight and avoid any areas with active nests, hives, etc.
- Teachers are to bring their own pest repellent and treatment for insect bites.
- The Wetland Manager will brief each group at the beginning of the excursion about the possibility of seeing a snake and appropriate behaviour to follow if one is sighted. The Wetland Manager and supervising staff are to always carry a mobile phone. Senior First Aid officers are always on site at the Urrbrae Education Centre, schools must have their own first aid kits and the teacher in charge must have current first aid qualifications (BELS).
- The Wetland Manager will brief each group at the beginning of the excursion about the possibility of swooping birds and appropriate behaviour to follow if this occurs.
- Ensure students are aware of the risks of direct contact with scats. Wash hands after activities. The boardwalks have modifications to prevent birds fouling the surfaces.

**Responsibility:** Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff

### Weather

Heat

Rain

Extreme Weather Conditions

*For Hot and Wet Weather Policies refer to the Urrbrae Wetland Learning Centre Website, Bookings page – under SCHOOL GROUPS: [Bookings - Urrbrae Agricultural High School](#)*

- Ensure students are equipped with appropriate, closed-toe footwear and weather protection - hats, sunscreen and raincoat.
- The Wetland Staff will operate activities in shaded and sheltered areas as required.
- Ensure students bring their own water bottles. These can be refilled at the Wetland Learning Centre drinking fountain.
- Education sessions will not operate in extreme weather conditions, including when temperatures exceed 35°C (some groups are accepted), very high winds, during electrical storms, high rainfall events or as determined by the Wetland Manager and catastrophic fire rating days (check CFS website: <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/bans-and-ratings/>).

**Responsibility:** Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff

### Scientific Equipment

Water testing

Digital microscopes

- The Wetland Manager will explain to each group how to safely use the equipment inside the Learning Center. Including the correct use of microscopes.
- There are signs in the Learning Centre that identify potential risks / hazards and how to avoid them.
- Electrical items are all tagged, correctly dated and in good working condition.
- All students are actively supervised in accordance with the DfE ratios.
- All water samples are taken with a water sampling reach pole.
- All hazardous water testing reagents are identified and standard handling procedures undertaken. *(This may vary depending on individual groups).*

**Responsibility:** Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff



<b>Fire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ The Urrbrae Wetland will be closed to schools on catastrophic fire rating days.</li><li>➤ In the case of a Fire, staff are to immediately follow the evacuation procedures, contact Emergency Services and the Wetland Manager, and assemble the group in the emergency assembly area, at the Wetland Main Gate or as directed by the Wetland Manager. All staff and supervising adults to be carrying mobile phones and are responsible for ensuring all students are accounted for.</li><li>➤ The Wetland Learning Centre is equipped with a fire extinguisher and has emergency fire exits clearly labelled.</li></ul> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff / Urrbrae Agricultural High School</p>
<b>Child Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ All Urrbrae Education Centre staff, volunteers and contractors are compliant with police checks and Mandatory Notification checks where necessary.</li><li>➤ The Urrbrae Wetland is not freely open to the general public.</li></ul> <p><b>Responsibility:</b> Teachers and accompanying adults / Wetland Staff</p>

## Other Considerations

### First Aid

The Wetland Manager holds Senior First Aid certificate and visiting school supervising teachers will have current First Aid accreditations (BELS) and are able to administer first aid (CPR and Emergency Care). There is always a Senior First Aid Officer available onsite at the Urrbrae Education Centre and Main Office. It is expected that staff of visiting schools have specific medication and health care plans where required.

The Wetland Manager and visiting teachers have access to mobile communication at all times. It is expected that visiting schools bring their own first aid kits especially for students with specific medical conditions.

### Clothing / Bags

**All students must wear fully enclosed shoes** and other appropriate clothing suitable for the weather conditions (e.g. sun protection in summer, warm and waterproof clothing and/or accessories in winter).

All students will store their bags on hooks under the veranda.

## **This form needs to be signed by the supervising teacher / group leader prior to activities commencing at the Urrbrae Wetland.**

I will be supervising the groups from (school/organisation) \_\_\_\_\_

throughout the visit to the Urrbrae Wetland on \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_.

I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to the above conditions of entry and acknowledge responsibility as identified in this document.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone: \_\_\_\_\_

