

FOR TEACHERS

The Property Planning Competition is designed to give students an opportunity to study a property in detail. The students are required to prepare a plan for the property that provides for long term profitability as well as sustaining the natural resources of the area.

The exercise draws together a number of land management themes and gives students the chance to apply their skills and knowledge to a real-life situation. The farm visit on **Tuesday May 19** will provide an opportunity for students to participate in a range of activities and to engage with relevant government and industry experts.

Syllabus Links

The exercise has been designed to address numerous outcomes of TAFE Agriculture courses and the stage 6 two-unit HSC Agriculture syllabus, particularly the “Farm Case Study” unit. The planning activity also covers a number of the knowledge, skills and attitude outcomes from the stage 4-5 syllabus. Appendix I highlights the aspects of the syllabus that are addressed by the property planning exercise.

Students studying 3-unit Agriculture would also find the exercise useful for the revising of the biophysical topics studied in the “Whole Farm Planning” unit. The field day would also provide links to current research programs such as ground cover.

Because the activity has been structured to accommodate students at stages 5 and 6 with a range of abilities, teachers will need to determine the depth of study undertaken. A marking schedule is provided in Appendix II, which will be used to judge entries submitted.

Getting Started

Materials available on the website are sufficient for students to work in small groups of 2-3. All web based material will print out clearly in black and white, but colour may make some things clearer. Each student group should be given a copy of Chapters 4 to 9 and Maps available of ‘Trelawney’.

In addition, students can access other resource materials from the Internet using web addresses supplied in Chapter 7. Resources include the Namoi and Border Rivers CMA Catchment Action Plans and other relevant natural resource and community plans. Other additional resources that are available can be sourced from Department of Primary Industries publications, books and library resources.

Property planning involves a comparison of alternative enterprises for each particular management unit. This usually includes undertaking a detailed comparison and assessment of the economic viability of alternatives as well as addressing physical requirements.

For the purposes of this exercise however, it is not necessary to produce a comprehensive report on economic aspects. The emphasis is on the production of the physical plan, with a short written explanation to justify the decisions made.