



**Holy Spirit College**  
A Catholic Coeducational Secondary College



## **Holy Spirit College, Bellambi** **Laudato Si' Action Platform Reflection 2026**

### **Overview**

Holy Spirit Bellambi is a systemic co-educational Catholic College catering for students from Year 7 to Year 12. The school provides a quality Catholic education for young men and women in the northern Illawarra.

The community of Holy Spirit College, Bellambi has grown in an environment of respect and appreciation for the past, and a tremendous enthusiasm and hope for the future.

The College Motto 'Live By The Truth' comes from the Gospel of St John: "But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God" (3:21). The motto reminds the College community that Christ is the role model for all we undertake. Jesus described himself as "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6) hence by following the example of Christ, we enable the mission of our Baptism to be lived on a daily basis.

The motto invites each of us to take seriously the call of ecological conversion to act and live with truth and justice for God's creation. We need to take seriously the challenge from Laudato Si' to care for our common home. At Holy Spirit we see that it is crucial that we take action to be sustainable stewards and responsible citizens that contribute to the building of a better future for humanity and our planet.

### **Environmental Vision**

**Our Vision:** For the school to be a role model in demonstrating stewardship and sustainability.

**Our Purpose:** To empower the school community to be proactive in caring for our school, local and global environment.

**Mission Statement:** To incorporate and promote sustainability into daily life at the college and improve the culture of stewardship.

### **Holy Spirit College's Contribution to the LSAP**

From 2019 - the present Holy Spirit College was involved in the SEMP process. Our SEMP Process aligns with the Laudato Si' Goals of:

Response To The Cry Of The Earth

Response To The Cry Of The Poor

Ecological Economics

Adoption Of Sustainable Lifestyles  
Ecological Education  
Ecological Spirituality  
Community Resilience And Empowerment

Below are some initiatives that were undertaken in that time

Setting up a small garden with vegetables, herbs, native flowers and bush tucker (2021) which is still in operation  
Donations from Bunnings, Bellambi and the Wollongong Botanic Garden were most welcome.



Worm farms and a rotating composter add to the sustainability of the garden.

Tank water is used for the garden via an irrigation system funded by the school.

The garden was featured in a WIN News broadcast recently (March 2022).

A hive of native bees has been added and a screen built in front of the tank to

Shade it from the sun to allow the irrigation system to remain cool.

A frog hotel and lizard lounge have been added to the garden.

<https://www.facebook.com/WINNewsIllawarra/videos/2445985515538438>

A preloved clothing sale is held each year on Holy Spirit Activity Day with donations from staff, students and their families. It has become a high point of the day. In addition to saving countless items from landfill, the event made nearly \$500 for charity. Last year the money went to the Carmelite seminary in Dili, Timor L'Este in memory of a colleague, the late Vera Cleary who started the recycling of the old sport uniforms.

Old style, but new, sports uniforms were donated to a Carmelite seminary in Timor 'Este and the remaining uniforms were recycled through a reputable textile recycler which may be done again during 2026.

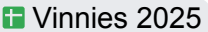
Reflections, prayers and liturgies for environmental occasions (World Day of Prayer etc)

Woodiwild tree planting scheme set up in 2020, has planted 162 trees so far.

<https://woodiwild.org/holy-spirit-college-bellambi/> The scheme was reintroduced in 2026.

Used writing equipment donated to BANISH

Paper and plastic bottles recycling boxes in all classrooms and the students are involved in recycling every Tuesday morning.

Return and Earn Vinnies bins for recycling plastic bottles, cans and popper boxes. Usually makes about \$50 per term for local projects. 

Bread tag recycling programme with BRAD is being phased out with the advent of cardboard tags)

Blister Pack recycling scheme with BRAD

Many departments also have their own small recycling hubs (such as the one in the science prep room pictured below) to collect individual items which are then collected centrally and recycled or sent for recycling



Reduction of plastic in canteen and for corporate events with BioPak or compostable items now being used.

Waste-Free Wednesday is now in school.

Solar panels were installed on the new CLC. The environmental group hope to do an audit in 2026

FOGO has been introduced at the college in 2025 but only really services the garden

### Future Projects

- To be part of the development and design of the new outdoor learning area at school to improve biodiversity within the school grounds. Still very much a work in progress
- To make nesting boxes for native birds.
- To liaise with Wollongong Botanic Garden to obtain native plants to be planted around the school.
  - To liaise with Wollongong Council regarding tree planting schemes in the local area.
  - To gradually change to LED lighting where possible in the school.
  - To negotiate providing waste paper skips at the end of the school to prevent paper being put into the skips with general waste. The items ARE recycled.
  - To continue to reduce plastic waste produced by the canteen and school events.
  - To push for more water refill stations around the school to further reduce plastic waste.