**Stage 6: Ecosystems at Risk**

**Fieldwork at Bate Bay, Cronulla**

This study will investigate:

* The spatial patterns and dimensions of the site;
* Biophysical interactions including the effects of weather, climate, geomorphic and hydrologic processes, bio geographical processes and adjustments in response to natural stress;
* The nature and rate of change which effects ecosystem functioning;
* Human impacts;
* Traditional and contemporary management practices.

The outcomes to be achieved from this field study by the student are:

1. Explains the changing nature, spatial patterns and interactions of ecosystems;
2. Explains the factors which place ecosystems at risk and the reasons for their protection;
3. Evaluates environmental management strategies in terms of ecological sustainability;
4. Evaluates the impact of, and responses of people to, environmental change.

Bate Bay from Wanda to Cronulla will be used during the field study:

Students are advised that taking additional notes, photographs or other recording of geographical information about the biophysical environment of the area is advised. Not all aspects of this study can be completely addressed in the time available on site. Additional materials have been provided to give an overview of:

* Weather and climate;
* Geomorphic and hydrologic processes which have shaped the landform.

**Booking Information**

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| **Location** | Bate Bay, Cronulla |
| **Bus booking** | Meet at Wanda Surf Club or Cronulla Railway station |
| **Timing** | Ideally schools should allow 4 hours for the program, including meal and toilet breaks. |
| **Bring** | Medications, food, water, sunblock, hats and wet weather gear |
| **Appropriate dress** | Students should wear clothing/shoes suited to working in an outdoor environment and appropriate to the season. Students will be walking in water. Advisable to wear old shoes. |
| **Staffing** | The EEC complies with NSW DEC policy for a student/adult ratio of 15:1 for bushwalking. Parent helpers welcome, no pre-schoolers. |
| **Extreme or wet weather** | May result in the excursion being modified, postponed or cancelled. An out of hours contact number will be supplied in your booking information. |
| **Medical or special needs** | Please notify EEC staff at time of booking |
| **Risk Management Guidelines** | Will be provided at the time of booking |
| **Excursion Pack** | Teacher background notes and digital worksheets will be provided (NB worksheets must be printed and brought on the day). |
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