

# *Fact Sheet: Ensuring your educational resources are free for educational use*

This PDF is interactive.  
Click on underlined  
words and sentences to  
be directed to online  
resources.

The water industry in Australia is enthusiastic about educating the community about the background knowledge necessary to understand the water business and the issues it faces. Often significant funding is devoted to developing locally relevant school education resources and sharing them freely with their target schools and communities. However, a lack of understanding about the impact of corporate copyright policies relating to educational resources may be inadvertently costing the educational jurisdictions of the schools using those resources.

## **COLLECTION OF COPYRIGHT FEES FROM SCHOOLS**

Copyright owners of education materials are entitled to a fee when their resources are copied in educational institutions. This process is managed by the Copyright Agency Limited (CAL). If the curriculum resources do not explicitly state that their resources are free for copying or educational use, a CAL fee for their use will be charged to schools and other educational institutions through their state jurisdictions. ([Click here for more information](#))

## **USING CREATIVE COMMONS LICENSING**

The preferred and least restrictive licence for educational resources is the [Creative Commons: Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY\)](#). All the Australian Departments of Education recently agreed to use this licence for their websites and publications. For more information about using a Creative Commons licence go to this [Smartcopying webpage](#).

## ALTERNATIVE EDUCATIONAL COPYRIGHT TERMS OF USE

If it is not possible to use a Creative Commons licence, the copyright terms of use of an organisation, such as a water utility, will need to clearly indicate that their resources are free for educational use. According to the [Smartcopying website](#) produced by the National Copyright Unit on behalf of the Copyright Advisory Groups (Schools and TAFEs), a website will not be 'free for education' if the terms and conditions or copyright statement state that copying is:

- permitted for personal use
- permitted for personal and non-commercial use
- permitted for personal, non-commercial use
- permitted for private or individual use
- not permitted.

Any limited 'free for education' terms such as the above aren't conducive to teachers amending and sharing the resources.

However there are other acceptable 'free for education' licence terms of use, if applying a Creative Commons licence is not possible. For instance, the terms and conditions or copyright statement should permit copying for any of the following uses:

- educational use
- non-commercial use
- use in your organisation
- personal or non-commercial use
- free copying.

A 'free for education' licence is particularly necessary if you would like to promote your educational resources through national curriculum portals such as Scootle. Scootle is a government-funded initiative and is managed by Education Services Australia (ESA): a national, not-for-profit company owned by all Australian education ministers. Teachers can register to access the digital curriculum resources linked to Scootle free of charge.

## WHY LINK TO SCOOTLE?

The Australian Curriculum web pages include a direct link to Scootle resources via the content descriptions (Figure 1). The Scootle portal is well-used by teachers nationally with over 370,000 registrations representing both in-service and pre-service teachers in all Australian states and territories across all sectors.

Science / Year 7 / Science Understanding / Earth and space sciences / ACSSU115

Content Description Feedback

Predictable phenomena on Earth, including seasons and eclipses, are caused by the relative positions of the sun, Earth and the moon

Elaborations

- investigating natural phenomena such as lunar and solar eclipses, seasons and phases of the moon
- comparing times for the rotation of Earth, the sun and moon, and comparing the times for the orbits of Earth and the moon
- modelling the relative movements of the Earth, sun and moon and how natural phenomena such as solar and lunar eclipses and phases of the moon occur
- explaining why different regions of the Earth experience different seasonal conditions

ScOT catalogue terms

- Seasons
- Orbits

Discover resources Discuss further

[scootle](#) [scootle community](#)

Figure 1 Year 7 Australian Curriculum content description relating to water

## YOUTUBE VIDEO STANDARD LICENSES

The Youtube standard license is sufficient for videos uploaded to Youtube because CAL does not collect a fee for these videos. However, applying a Creative Commons licence to videos published on your website or Youtube gives teachers and students greater flexibility in how they use them. For instance, teachers can cache your videos on the school network for ease of access. This is particularly useful for schools whose media policy restricts the use of Youtube.

## USING AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM TEXT AND CONTENT DESCRIPTIONS

The Australian Curriculum resources are owned by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and published under a Creative Commons Attribution CC BY 4.0. Under the terms of this licence, you are free to:

- share—copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format
- adapt—remix, transform, and build upon the material

for any purpose, even commercially, provided you attribute ACARA as the source of the copyright material.

You will need to include wording to ensure that any third party material used in the curriculum materials is not included under the Creative Commons BY licence e.g. *The Creative Commons licence does not apply to material owned by third parties that has been reproduced with permission. Permission will need to be obtained from third parties to re-use their material.*

## ATTRIBUTING THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING AUTHORITY

The following information about correctly attributing Australian Curriculum material can be found on the [Australian Curriculum copyright web page](#).

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