Background:
Maroon OEC is a unique Education Queensland school on the shores of Maroon Dam. The centre is located south-west of Brisbane at the foothills of the Scenic Rim near the township of Boonah. The centre has been providing teachers and students with unique learning opportunities in outdoor and adventurous settings since 1975. It is committed to providing every student with a memorable and valuable learning experience. Maroon OEC provides programs that assist in preparing students for their future at school, at home and at work. Skills relating to lifelong learning such as critical thinking and problem-solving are integrated into all programs. Current Principal Mr Peter McKenna was appointed to the position in 2010.

Commendations:
- School leaders and teachers work together in a mutually supportive way and there is a strong sense of belonging and pride in the centre. All staff members are absolutely committed to the centre’s vision of ‘every student, real adventure, real achievement, learning outdoors’.
- A strong data culture has developed at the centre. The Audit Report of 2010 recommended, ‘continue to develop data gathering processes’ and these processes are now embedded in practice. The data gathering processes will be further enhanced in 2013 with the implementation of the ‘Evaluation Program 2013 - 2015’ and this program will provide rich data on all aspects of the centre’s operations.
- Feedback from visiting teachers and students is collated and used as a stimulus for discussions among teachers about how to improve learning programs and teaching strategies.
- The teacher induction plan plays a very important part in establishing, not only procedures and skills required by teachers, but the belief structures and expectations of the centre.
- The Maroon OEC pedagogical model is based on research on outdoor education and clearly identifies that the programs delivered at the centre aim to increase student function in the social and emotional learning competencies.

Affirmations:
- There are high levels of trust among the centre’s staff.
- The physical environment of the centre is unique and provides a learning environment which reflects the vision of the centre.
- Teachers routinely team teach and learn from each other.
- The Vocation Education Training (VET) program introduced in 2010 has provided a very successful pathway for both students and teachers to gain certificate qualifications in outdoor education.

Recommendations:
- Identify from the strategic plan an explicit school improvement agenda to be implemented in 2013. The improvement agenda needs to be effective in focusing the whole school’s attention on identified learning priorities. The agenda should include clear targets with accompanying timelines, which are rigorously actioned.
- Review the curriculum plan and unit plans to ensure that there is a strong alignment between the overall curriculum delivery plan, unit plans and teaching practices. The curriculum plan should encompass all curriculum offered at the centre including the VET programs.
- Give consideration to formalising the coaching program to facilitate teachers visiting each other’s classrooms and providing structured feedback to each other. The program would support the self-reflective culture which is evident at the centre.
- Review the Maroon OEC pedagogical model with the aim of creating a direct link between this pedagogical model and the implementation of better teaching methods.