Background:
Helensvale SS serves a satellite community of the Gold Coast located in the growth corridor, 10 kilometres North West of the coastal strip. It is a well-established suburb and the school’s current Prep - Year 7 enrolment sits at 1080 students. The school serves a predominately middle class community, however rentals in the areas have risen in recent times and the number of transient students have increased. Parents show a keen interest in their children’s education and generally have high expectations of their education. The Special Education Program (SEP) caters for 28 students.

Commendations:
- Since the previous Teaching and Learning Audit improvements have been made in the domains of Targeted Use of School Resources and Expert Teaching Team.
- There has been a significant shift in the school culture in recent times due to the new leadership team’s work on renewing strong levels of collegially in the school community. This has led to substantial increase in mutual trust, two way communication and caring relationships with staff, teachers and parents.
- The school improvement agenda has been effective in focusing, and to some extent narrowing and sharpening, the whole school’s attention on the core learning priorities of literacy and numeracy.
- There is a strong and optimistic commitment by all staff members to the school improvement strategy and a clear belief that further improvement is possible.
- The school literacy project ‘Lift’ has been highly effective in raising teacher capacity through the provision of coaching in effective reading strategies. This is underpinned by the collection of long term student data in reading and a starting point for reading instruction and differentiation across Years 3 - 7.

Affirmations:
- The new version of the assessment schedule will include a process for data analysis to inform planning for teaching at sector, year level and classroom level.
- The newly established curriculum team structure will provide the platform for reviewing the school’s curriculum plan and clarify curriculum delivery expectations for teachers.
- The Principal and school leaders have created opportunities for teachers to work together and to learn from each other’s practice through the recent literacy and numeracy projects.

Recommendations:
- Review all whole school curriculum plans in all key learning areas (KLAs) so that the school has a coherent, sequenced plan for curriculum delivery across all year levels.
- Develop a pedagogical framework and document the kinds of evidenced based teaching practices you wish to see at Helensvale SS.
- Develop an action plan for the delivery of the improvement agenda which provides targets and timelines and provides a clear link to the systems, processes and practices of the school’s operation.
- Develop a professional development plan which provides modelling, coaching and feedback to teachers on high yield teaching strategies and addresses the strengths and weaknesses in the school wide team.
- Review supervision and planning strategies to ensure the consistency of curriculum delivery in order to improve horizontal and vertical alignment throughout the school.
- Continue to build a culture of high expectations with teachers in terms of each and every student’s capacity to improve, especially students achieving in the upper two bands.
- Build curriculum leaders and teachers’ capacity to improve classroom teaching; by developing more sophisticated data literacy skills and teachers’ ability to take action and monitor progress of students. The recently introduced five week planning cycle will be of great assistance with this.
- Continue to refine the SEP program around an ‘in class’ support model to maximise resourcing and support to students and teachers in line with the rest of the whole school intervention model.