

Implementation

The consultation draft of the State Sustainability Strategy provides an overarching framework for sustainability in Western Australia and identifies specific actions in forty-two priority areas.

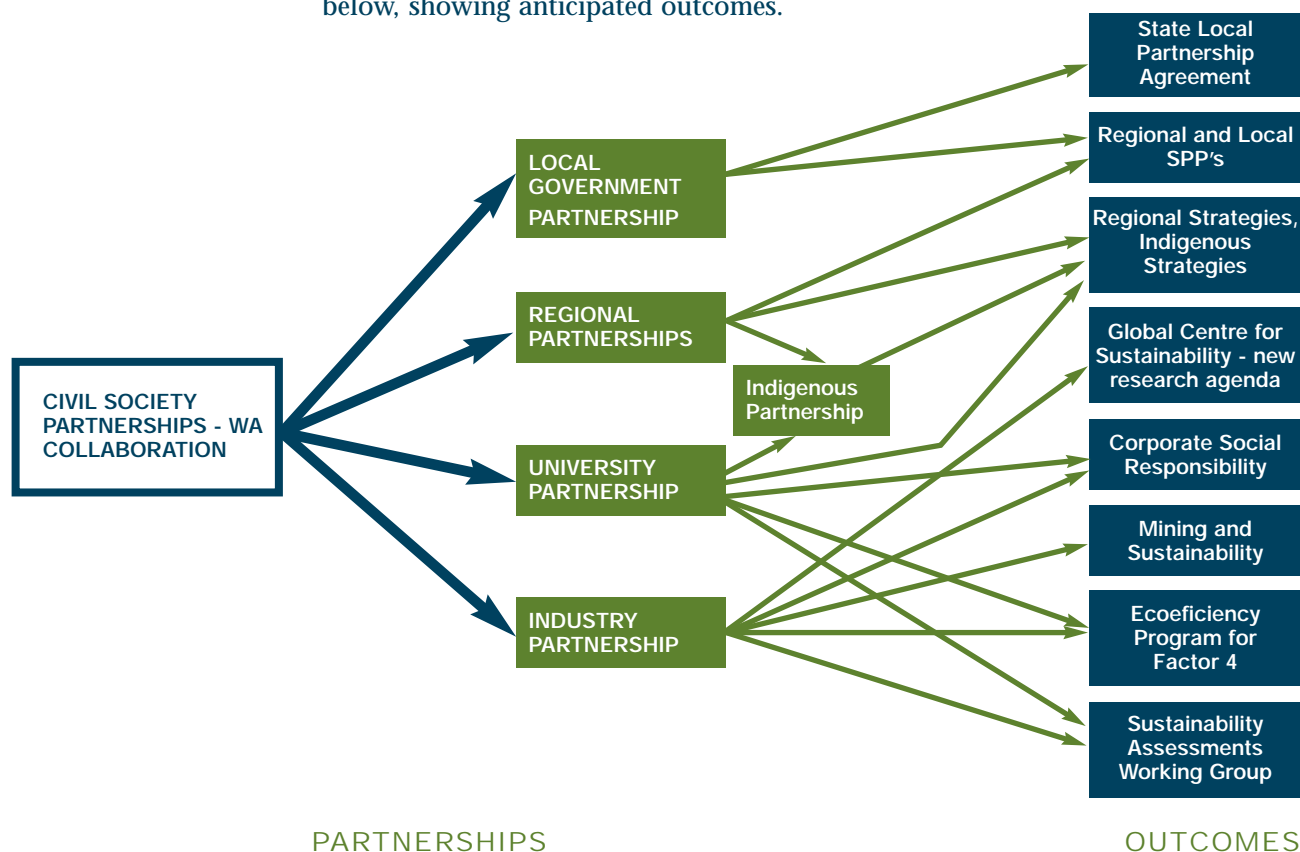
Finalisation of draft Strategy

The Strategy will be finalised over the coming months through a number of processes:

- A consultation process including public comment on the Draft Strategy
- Government agencies developing a Sustainability Code of Practice and Sustainability Procurement Policy.
- A program of partnerships with key stakeholders following the release of the draft Strategy, including:
 - WA Collaboration to assist community organisations in implementing the Strategy and to be involved in all aspects of the other partnerships.
 - Western Australian Local Government Association for the development of a common sustainability framework and partnership agreement across the whole strategy.
 - Regional agencies and communities, including Indigenous groups, to prepare Regional Sustainability Strategies.
 - Universities, TAFE, CSIRO, government and industry R&D groups, to establish the Global Centre for Sustainability.
 - Western Australian industry to apply the work of the World Business Council on Sustainable Development and the Mining Minerals and Sustainable Development initiative to Western Australia and to evaluate how Factor 4 eco-efficiency could be achieved.
 - A Sustainability Assessment Working Group made up of key industry, academic and agency representatives who will further develop the processes of sustainability assessment.

> IMPLEMENTATION

A diagram which shows some of these partnerships and their linkages is below, showing anticipated outcomes.



Implementation of Final Strategy

Following the finalisation of the Strategy the Government will develop a detailed Implementation Program for the State Sustainability Strategy, specifying the overall institutional arrangements for implementation, who will be responsible for implementing each action, the allocation of resources to the strategy and time frames for implementation. The Implementation Program will also set out a mechanism for monitoring the performance of the Strategy and mechanisms for regular review and update of the Strategy.

The Strategy provides an overarching framework for Government and as such, implementation of the Strategy will also begin through a range of other Government processes and policies.

Overview of Main Implementation Mechanisms

Building on the Sustainability Framework for principles, visions, goals and priorities, these strategies are summarised below to show how the State Sustainability Strategy can be implemented.

Long term visions

Unless there is a vision the people perish

Proverbs 29(18).

The need for vision to help direct government, industry and the community is one of the deepest felt motivations behind the global sustainability movement. This sentiment was a feature of many submissions to the State Sustainability Strategy.

The long term vision and goal for each priority issue has been set out showing how the State Sustainability Strategy has tried to incorporate the sentiments of the submissions from agencies, industry and the wider community into a set of strategies, targets and indicators for government. These visions will guide the implementation process as it tries to develop the strategies.

Sustainability assessment

Sustainability assessment can become a key process for implementing sustainability. The processes of sustainability assessment will need to be learned as Western Australia applies this new approach, but the speed with which industry is already utilising it gives hope that a rapid adoption can occur.

Research

Throughout the State Sustainability Strategy there has been an emphasis on the need for research. These sustainability issues are hard, complex, long-term and involve the need for a new kind of integrated science - now called sustainability science. This is integrative of the natural sciences and is clearly linked with the social sciences. The involvement of CSIRO's Healthy Country initiative and the Global Centre for Sustainability will enable sustainability science to be given a large boost.

Education and training

The need for development of capacity in sustainability has been demonstrated in every issue. Universities, TAFE, professional organisations and schools need to be involved in broad and focussed educational processes for sustainability. Government campaigns may be needed to assist with some issues. Certification or accreditation of professional activity has been specified in particular throughout the State Sustainability Strategy.

Demonstrations

Next steps are always greatly assisted by demonstrations of innovative solutions to sustainability issues. Throughout the State Sustainability Strategy there have been examples of such demonstrations (particularly in the case studies and background papers). Some emerging demonstrations that can be significant steps forward in Western Australia include the 'Reviving the Suburbs' Project and the Aboriginal Country Management Program.

State-Local Government partnership and statutory planning

A key implementation process will be the Roundtable between state and local government involving the WA Collaboration, industry and research interests. Many of the issues considered in the draft Strategy require regional and local resolution. The use of statutory planning processes, often in new areas of application, has been stressed as a tool for implementing sustainability through state and local government statutory planning mechanisms. The main issues requiring greater regional and local resolution, perhaps through Statements of Planning Policy or statutory plans are outlined in Box 43.

BOX 43 POTENTIAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED THROUGH STATEMENTS OF PLANNING POLICY, OTHER STATUTORY PLANNING MECHANISMS OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT PLANS

- Regional Natural Resource Management Strategies
- Regional Biodiversity Corridors
- Regional Ground Water and Drainage Strategies
- Regional Transport Plans
- Regional Heritage and Landscape Values
- Sustainable Building and Construction
- Public Housing, Community Housing and Affordable Private Housing
- Regional Sustainability Rangelands Plans
- Regional Integrated Community Services Plans

Regional Sustainability Strategies and 'Stories'

Regions can draw together the various elements outlined above into their own strategies. The State Sustainability Strategy has suggested this can include an Indigenous Regional Sustainability Strategy as a contribution to Comprehensive Regional Agreements. And most importantly a process is needed to generate regional 'sense of place' documents that tell the 'story' of their region and aspirations for a more sustainable future. This will require the involvement of universities and local communities.

Other strategies and policy instruments

A number of strategies have been gathered into the State Sustainability Strategy from agencies and some new ones developed for solving sustainability issues. These are summarised in Box 44.

A number of other state government processes are occurring that are embedding sustainability principles and making a significant contribution to the implementation of the Strategy. These are also outlined in Box 44.

BOX 44 STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS SUPPORTING THE STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY.

New strategic planning processes and programs

- State-Local Government Partnership Agreement.
- Regional Sustainability Strategies.
- Indigenous Regional Sustainability Strategies.
- Inland Fish and Aquatic Ecosystem Strategy.
- Building Better Stations
- Perth Bike Plan Update.
- Regional Integrated Community Services Plans.
- Enterprise Facilitation review.
- Sustainable Business Investment Focus.
- Sustainability and Business Roundtable.
- Sustainability Business Investment Tours.
- Aboriginal Country Management Program.
- Sustainability Online.
- Population and Consumption Study.
- Oil Vulnerability-Transport Technology Taskforce.
- Community Code for Revitalisation.
- Greenhouse Offsets Program.
- Action Plan for Tree Farming in Western Australia.
- World Heritage Nomination process for Cape Range Ningaloo.

Existing Initiatives

- State Industry Policy.
- State Strategic Plan.
- Regional Policy.
- State Planning Strategy.
- Regional Natural Resource Management Strategies.
- State Water Strategy.
- State Water Conservation Strategy
- State Greenhouse Strategy.
- State Coastal Strategy.
- Future Perth.
- National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.
- State Bioprospecting Policy.
- ESD Fisheries Assessment Process.
- Fisheries Management Plans.
- Energy Smart Government Program.
- Forest Management Plan.
- BushForever.
- Liveable Neighbourhoods.
- Freight Network Review.
- Perth Air Quality Management Plan.
- WAste 2020.
- Review of Hazardous Waste Management.
- Resource Recovery Precincts Study.
- State BioEnergy Policy.
- Anti Racism Strategy.
- Health Administrative Review.
- Community Arts Program.

Legislation and institutional change

As outlined throughout the strategy there are many things that can be done immediately without the need for legislative and institutional change, including the ongoing role of the Sustainability Policy Unit, the formation of the Sustainability Assessment Units in the Department of Treasury and Finance and Department for Planning and Infrastructure to complement and work with the Environmental Protection Authority. Already changes to the Environmental Protection Act and the Town Planning and Development Act are being made to better reflect sustainability. As the process of implementing sustainability unfolds, further institutional reform may be required, such as sustainability legislation.

Community-oriented facilitation

So much of the transition to sustainability requires government leadership. However real change must also come from the community allowing dreams and energy to be expressed in new ways. Community development has been demonstrated as essential for sustainability and it is therefore important to emphasise the need for community-based change processes. This will require facilitation of the arts that can help us resolve deeper issues in our community as well as discussions on ethics, spirituality and sustainability.

Corporations and businesses that are person-centred, receptive to industrial democracy and develop real partnerships involving the creativity of their work force are good examples of sustainability at work.

It will also be essential for the implementation of this strategy that all government agencies work in a genuine partnership with the community. There is a need for community facilitators to be trained within government so that each area of sustainability can be given community sensitivity and direction.

Government will implement the State Sustainability Strategy with awareness that community sensitivity and a commitment to transparent, participatory processes are essential to achieving sustainability.