

SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

for the State Sustainability Strategy

Principles for Sustainability

Foundation principles

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC HEALTH

Sustainability recognises the needs of current and future generations for long-term economic health, diversity and productivity of the earth.

EQUITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Sustainability recognises that an environment needs to be created where all people can express their full potential and lead productive lives and that significant gaps in sufficiency and opportunity endanger the earth.

BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

Sustainability recognises that all life has intrinsic value, is interconnected and that biodiversity and ecological integrity are part of the irreplaceable life support systems upon which the earth depends.

SETTLEMENT EFFICIENCY AND QUALITY OF LIFE

Sustainability recognises that the earth can only adjust to a more balanced state if settlements reduce their ecological footprint (ie. less material and energy demands and reductions in waste), while they simultaneously improve their quality of life (health, housing, employment, community ...).

NET BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT

Sustainability means that all development, and particularly development involving extraction of non-renewable resources, should strive to provide net environmental, social and economic benefit for future generations.

COMMUNITY, REGIONS, ‘SENSE OF PLACE’ AND HERITAGE

Sustainability recognises the significance and diversity of community and regions for the management of the earth, and the critical importance of ‘sense of place’ and heritage (buildings, townscapes, landscapes and culture) in any plans for the future.

COMMON GOOD FROM PLANNING

Sustainability recognises that planning for the common good requires equitable distribution of public resources (like air, water and open space) so that natural carrying capacities are not exceeded and so that a shared resource is available to all.

Process principles

INTEGRATION OF THE TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE

Sustainability requires that economic, social and environmental factors be integrated by simultaneous application of these principles, seeking mutually supportive benefits with minimal trade offs.

ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY AND ENGAGEMENT

Sustainability recognises that people should have access to information on sustainability issues, that institutions should have triple bottom line accountability, that regular sustainability audits of programs and policies should be conducted, and that public engagement lies at the heart of all sustainability principles.

PRECAUTION

Sustainability requires caution, avoiding poorly understood risks of serious or irreversible damage, designing for surprise and managing for adaptation.

HOPE, VISION, SYMBOLIC AND ITERATIVE CHANGE

Sustainability recognises that applying these principles as part of a broad strategic vision for the earth can generate hope in the future, and thus it will involve symbolic change that is part of many successive steps over generations.

Sustainability Visions for Western Australia

GOVERNANCE

Western Australia’s system of governance is world famous for its responsiveness to sustainability issues, effective and financially responsible in its programs, transparent and inclusive in its processes and reflects its globally significant responsibilities towards the land and its people.

GLOBAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Western Australia contributes to the solution of global sustainability issues particularly population pressures and poverty, climate change, threats to biodiversity and oil vulnerability and in so doing creates significant local opportunities for new jobs in the rapidly growing sustainability economy.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Western Australia’s vast landscape, intricate web of biodiversity and natural resources are managed and used sustainably for the common good closely involving the community in management and planning processes that are transparent and visionary.

SETTLEMENTS

Western Australia’s settlements are among the most attractive places to live in the world, constantly becoming more innovative and efficient in their use of resources and management of wastes while simultaneously being more liveable and equitable.

COMMUNITY

Western Australian communities in cities and in regions have a strong sense of place, supportive networks receptive to local needs, and through this respond uniquely to the sustainability agenda.

BUSINESS

Western Australian businesses, large and small, are globally innovative and responsive, leading to the resolution of sustainability issues at home and abroad and achieving competitive advantage and prosperity.

Government’s Sustainability Goals and Priority Areas for Action

GOAL 1

Ensure that the way we govern is driving the transition to a sustainable future

- Sustainability assessment
- Institutional change
- Embracing sustainability in government agencies
- Partnerships for action
- Planning for sustainability
- Sustainability in the regions
- Indigenous communities and sustainability
- Research and development for sustainability
- Sustainability information online
- Recognising sustainability excellence

GOAL 2

Play our part in solving the global challenges of sustainability

- Population, development aid and environmental technology
- Maintaining our biodiversity
- Responding to greenhouse and climate change
- Oil vulnerability, the gas transition and the hydrogen economy

GOAL 3

Value and protect our natural environment and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources

- Sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Sustainable forests and plantations
- Sustainable mining and petroleum production
- Sustainable tourism
- Protecting aquatic systems
- Sustainable coastal and marine environments
- Sustainable rangelands management

GOAL 4

Plan and provide settlements that reduce the ecological footprint and enhance quality of life at the same time

- Managing urban and regional growth
- Revitalising declining centres and suburbs
- Integrating land use and balanced transport
- Managing freight and regional transport
- Preserving air quality
- Reducing and managing waste
- Our water future
- Sustainable energy
- Preserving cultural heritage and landscapes and creating ‘sense of place’
- Building sustainably

GOAL 5

Support communities to fully participate in achieving a sustainable future

- Community services and development
- Housing and sustainability
- Sustaining healthy communities
- Education and community awareness for sustainability
- Sustainability through culture and the arts
- Multiculturalism and sustainability

GOAL 6

Assist business to benefit from and contribute to sustainability

- Training and facilitation for sustainability
- Financial reform and economic instruments for sustainability
- Eco-efficiency and industrial ecology
- Industry sustainability covenants

