SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK
for the State Sustainability Strategy

DEFINITION: Sustainability is defined as *meeting the needs of current and future generations through an integration of environmental protection, social advancement, and economic prosperity.*

Principles for Sustainability

Foundation principles

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC HEALTH
Sustainability recognises the needs of current and future generations for long-term economic health, innovation, 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, safety 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 settlements need to 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 ...).

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.

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.

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 to environmental, economic or social capital, 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, implementing effective and financially responsible programs, supporting transparent and inclusive processes and reflecting the State's 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 and seascape, intricate web of biodiversity and other natural resources are conserved, managed and used sustainably for the common good, and the community is involved 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 and use of wastes while simultaneously being more liveable and equitable.

COMMUNITY

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

BUSINESS

Western Australian businesses, large and small, are globally innovative and receptive, 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
- Measuring and reporting on sustainability

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 environment and ensure the sustainable management and use of natural resources

- Sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Sustainable forestry and plantations
- Sustainable mining and petroleum production
- Sustainable tourism
- Protecting drinking water and 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
- Sustainable urban design
- Integrating land use and balanced transport
- Managing freight and regional transport
- Preserving air quality
- Reducing waste and managing it as a resource
- Our water future
- Sustainable energy
- Conserving 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
- Sustainability through multiculturalism

GOAL 6

Assist business to benefit from and contribute to sustainability

- Training and facilitation for sustainability
- Financial reform and economic policy for sustainability
- Eco-efficiency and industrial ecology
- Corporate social responsibility and industry sustainability covenants
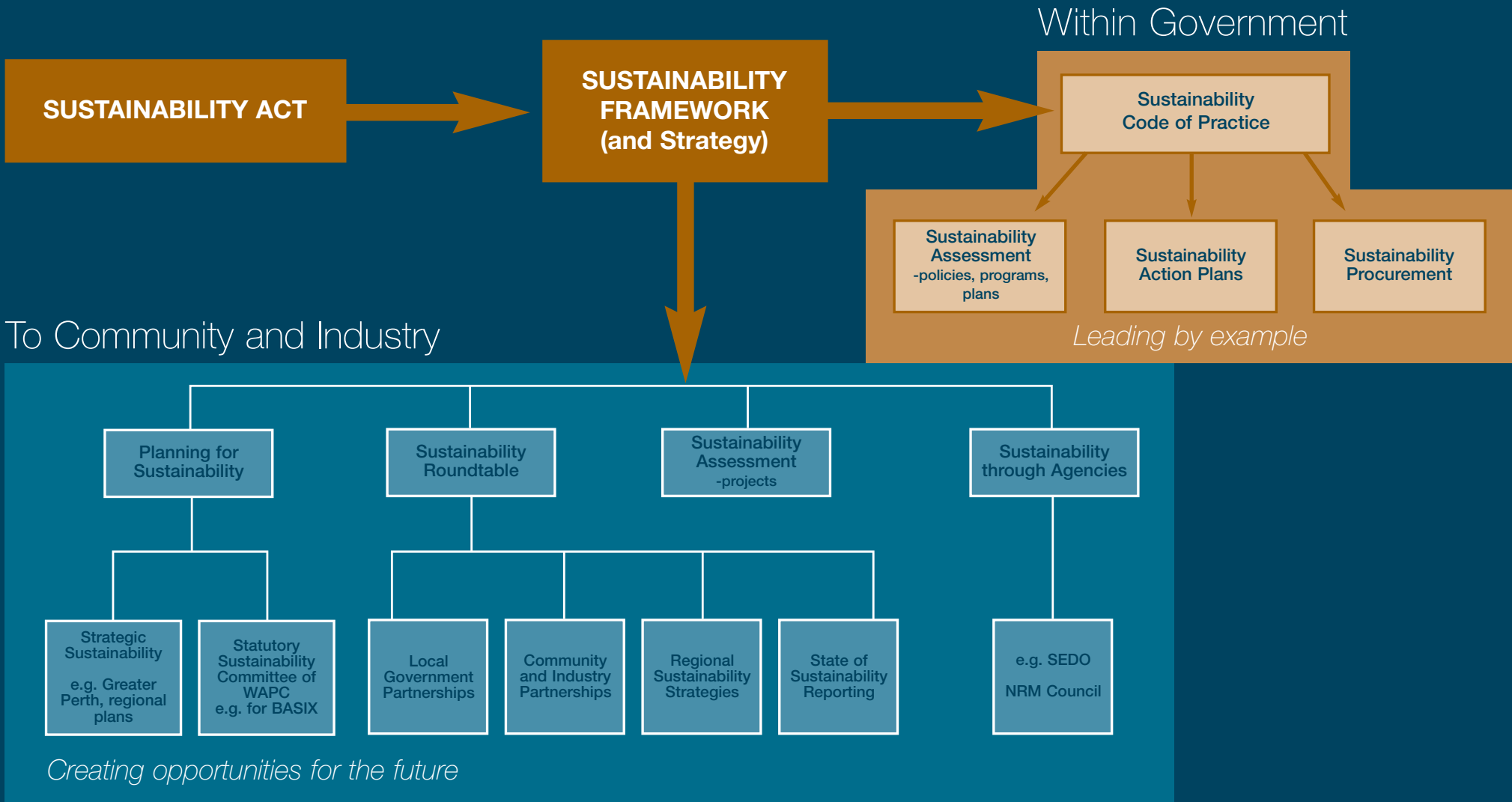
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

GOVERNANCE

- Develop a Sustainability Act that embeds the principles of sustainability in government actions and processes and supports reporting on the outcomes across government through a periodic **State of Sustainability Report**.
- Demonstrate leadership by requiring government agencies to respond to a **Sustainability Code of Practice for Government Agencies** and develop a **Sustainability Action Plan** to address a range of issues including energy use, greenhouse emissions, waste minimisation, community engagement and **sustainability procurement**.
- Initiate and trial **Sustainability Assessment**—an integrated and holistic approach to decision-making to create 'net benefit' outcomes.
- Create a **Sustainability Roundtable** with community and industry expertise in order to facilitate:
  - the further development and implementation of the **State-Local Government Sustainability Partnership Agreement**
  - community and industry **Partnership Projects**
  - **regional Sustainability Strategies**
  - global aid project involvement
  - **state of Sustainability Reporting** and
  - revising the State Sustainability Strategy (every 2 years).
- Embed sustainability into the planning system through:
  - a **Sustainability Directorate** in the Department for Planning and Infrastructure
  - a **Sustainability Scorecard** approach to development control and
  - a **Sustainability and Development Assessment Committee** as a Standing Committee of the Western Australian Planning Commission.
- Promote Aboriginal employment targets in major developments, joint management with Aboriginal people of National Parks, an Indigenous Protected Areas program and Indigenous Regional Agreements to support Indigenous sustainability.

GLOBAL

- Facilitate the new **Global Centre for Sustainability** (combining expertise from universities, TAFE, the CSIRO, government and industry) to undertake major international partnership projects on the interrelated issues of population, development aid and environmental technology.
- Implement a Western Australian **Greenhouse Strategy** and continue to develop innovative contributions to the global greenhouse issue.
- Develop a **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Act**, create thirty new National Parks under the policy to protect old-growth forests and five new marine reserves, assess the need for new reserves, and support the linking of major terrestrial reserves with areas of privately owned bush and regeneration, to help meet Australia's international obligations for biodiversity protection.
- Respond to the findings of the Transport Energy Strategy Committee on short, medium and long-term transport goals for the transition from **oil vulnerability**, to gas, to the hydrogen economy.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- Develop a new vision for the Ningaloo Coast including fast tracking World Heritage nomination for Cape Range – Ningaloo Coast and gazette the extensions to the Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park.
- Strengthen the Nuclear Waste Facility (Prohibition) Act 1999 so that it prohibits the transportation or storage of **any nuclear waste** in Western Australia.
- Use **Statements of Planning Policy** and other mechanisms to coordinate the actions of local governments, regional councils and State natural resource management agencies on priority natural resource issues, for example regional drainage, biodiversity corridors, local community services and coastal planning.
- Build **community values** into regulatory approaches to natural resources management.

SUSTAINABILITY ACT → **SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK (and Strategy)** →

Within Government

- Sustainability Code of Practice
  - Sustainability Assessment -policies, programs, plans
  - Sustainability Action Plans
  - Sustainability Procurement

Leading by example

To Community and Industry

- Planning for Sustainability
  - Strategic Sustainability e.g. Greater Perth, regional plans
  - Statutory Sustainability Committee of WAPC e.g. for BASIX
- Sustainability Roundtable
  - Local Government Partnerships
  - Community and Industry Partnerships
  - Regional Sustainability Strategies
  - State of Sustainability Reporting
- Sustainability Assessment -projects
- Sustainability through Agencies
  - e.g. SEDO NRM Council

Creating opportunities for the future

SETTLEMENTS

- Implement the **State Water Strategy** and continue to develop long-term solutions for water conservation and water supply including more community scale re-use applications.
- Emphasise the **revitalisation of suburbs** and, as part of Greater Perth, investigate growth management to control urban sprawl.
- Overcome car dependence through development that builds on the doubling of the rail system, revamp the **Perth Bike Plan** and introduce a **SmartRider** ticketing system for public transport with extra incentives, security and speed of operation.
- Develop a **Strategic Framework for Waste Management**, including detailed plans for each waste stream (including hazardous waste), towards **zero waste by 2020**.
- Demonstrate the **Sustainability Scorecard** approach to development control to encourage thermal efficiency, solar orientation, accessible design, affordable housing and other sustainable building practices in new and renovated homes.

COMMUNITIES

- Involve the community in developing 'place management' approaches through an **integrated community services framework** to help prioritise and co-locate services.
- Create an **Education for Sustainability Competition** based on student projects and school plans demonstrating sustainability.
- Hold an annual sustainability ethics seminar **'Many Cultures – One Earth'** and an annual **Sustainable Living Festival**.
- Promote Aboriginal naming of regions, towns, suburbs and landscape features, to assist in the development of 'sense of place' in Western Australia.
- Use *Consulting Citizens: A Resource Guide* and *Consulting Citizens: Planning for Success* to promote effective public consultation and active citizenship.
- Strengthen communities in their 'sense of place' through a neighbourhood renewal initiative, an Early Intervention Strategy, projects in sport, recreation, culture and the arts, and regional sustainability strategies.

BUSINESS

- Establish training schemes to provide capacity in new areas of professional activity for sustainability through initiatives such as a TAFE centre of specialisation in **applied sustainability**.
- Implement strategies that support the use of **local employment in mining ventures**.
- Review taxation, subsidies and financial incentives to promote sustainability and support **Sustainability Investment Tours**.
- Create **industry sustainability covenants** that recognise and help to market sustainability innovation and leadership, particularly in regions as part of Regional Sustainability Strategies.
- Develop through **industry partnerships** new approaches to sustainable building, eco-efficiency (the factor 4 agenda), sustainability assessment, mining and petroleum production sustainability, corporate social responsibility and the new sustainability research and development agenda.
- Continue to document and celebrate the best examples of **industry innovation** in sustainability.