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Professor Peter Newman  
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Department of Premier and Cabinet

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Dear Sir,

*Sustainability Submission*

Thank you for the opportunity to prepare a submission for "Focus on the Future". I believe I have some positive contributions to this strategy having had practical experience of sustainability planning through pioneering several Local Agenda 21 plans in Western Australia.

While this is a brief submission, I would initially like to compliment the State Government on the development of this strategy, its scope and the process being undertaken. I would like to suggest the following issues are incorporated into the strategy.

1. One of the philosophies of Sustainable Development is equality between nations and assisting developing nations to progress in a sustainable manner. There is also the notion of "Think Globally, Act Locally". WA has a small population and enormous resources per capita. This strategy should recognize:
  - a. the high levels of per capita consumption in WA.
  - b. the considerable pressures that many developing nations are coping with in regards to population, the environment and development.
  - c. looming environmental and resource conflicts.

While population policy is a federal issue, it is also an important part of sustainable development. We should be accepting more people from marginalised countries with the objective of maintaining and stimulating economic growth, while channelling this growth into greater efficiencies and a reduction in per capita consumption.

These are important social and economic issues.

Perth has probably reached a reasonable size and to get much larger is stretching its carrying capacity. Additional population growth should be focused towards stimulating development in the key regional centers of this large state.

2. Sustainability is about long term systemic change and as such there is likely to be considerable bureaucratic resistance to this concept and to changing some past

practices. Several of the following initiatives are targeted at assisting with this change.

- a. Ensuring government tenders are assessed using a “Triple Bottom Line” approach. Eg. This would make many projects that are preferable in terms of sustainability, more competitive under this assessment.
- b. The government needs to adopt and report on recognized indicators. There needs to be principle indicators – which can easily transmit information to the community and secondary indicators, which measure more detail.
- c. Key indicators should incorporate energy and water consumption, and sources. It should also include land use and waste/renewable resources.
- d. Senior bureaucrats should have their Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) associated with achieving sustainability targets within their own spheres of operation.
- e. Decision makers in government need to have the opportunity of assessing their personal values in the context of sustainability so they can understand how to improve their own operation in this context. In some circumstances this may require a mind shift in others it may require a lobotomy. For those that don't require a lobotomy, training and exploratory workshops would prove beneficial.

**3.** Legislation changes are required to progress sustainability in WA in government operations in the following areas:

- a. Increase the % of renewable energy Western Power is expected to provide on a continuous scale, through a targeted implementation strategy. 2% should be 10%.
- b. Land Corporation and re-development authorities should be demonstrating best environment practice and technologies in all their developments and supporting private service providers through TBL in their tendering.
- c. Government purchasing priorities should preference goods and services that are more environmentally sound, have Environmental Management Systems or are engaged in Cleaner Production initiatives. Note: This is not going to affect competitive tendering as all Government suppliers have the same opportunities to implement these systems.

**4.** The State Sustainability Strategy needs a SEXY name. It needs some icon projects to get things moving and at the same time long term systemic change.

I hope these comments contribute to the development of the strategy in a positive manner.

Yours Sincerely,

Bryce Bunny  
Environmental Planner