

9 Adenanthus Rd
c/- PO Box 573
TOODYAY WA 6566
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Professor Peter Newman
Director, Sustainability Policy Unit
Policy Office
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
15th Floor, 197 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir, STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Since I lodged my submission, my mind has mulled over some particular aspects of it. I am aware of the large resistance to change and the concurrent pressing need for it, so I want to add the following for clarification, if it is not too late to do so.

I accept that no-one wants material hardship, nor have I ever been in favour of that or advocated it myself. However there is the perception that environmentalists do not care about the material well being of people.

Instead of saying that materialism should not be supported as it has led to our terrible environmental crisis, perhaps it is better to be very particular and state that it is the type of materialism we now have. It is the particular technologies, types of materials and processes (ie. petrol engines, emission producing energy generation, non biodegradable plastics, non renewability of metals) that are large parts of our problem.

Hence our materialism and its entwined economic growth would be less objectionable if it was based on alternatives to these and had the qualities of renewable, non-emission producing, or biodegradable and so on. It may be helpful, in persuading people, if specifics are targeted as requiring replacement.

On genetic engineering to provide particular answers, I am especially opposed to the releasing of altered micro-organisms into the environment, as they are not recoverable. On using this technology to produce substitutes for different materials, possibly plastics, I am open to considering them.

The current materialism exhibits a conforming uniformity, a reflection of the anti-individual strain of the mass society. There is a lack of interest in art and design in the mass produced goods, to the poverty of culture.

The combination of a futile materialism and lack of personal satisfaction in people's lives develops from the nihilism in our culture. Professor Alan Bloom's book ("The Closing of the American Mind") on the development of a stunted philosophy that has warped the behavioural sciences and politics in the West refers.

He provides a basis for trying to understand the psychology of the alienated person, as does John Taylor Gatto in "Dumbing Us Down" (a critique of mass schooling) that gives us a direction we could travel in to overcome these social tendencies that fragment our psyches, leading to the materialist outlook.

I thought I should add the above as it was not my intention, nor I am sure of many others, to merely provide further gloom. I am definitely interested in resolution of the environmental picture.

Yours sincerely,

Christine Heal