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SUBMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

I relate to the 1987 definition of Sustainability identified by the UN World Commission on Environment Development.

Having since the 1950's been involved with one or other aspect of global/local environmental issues, I have had to encompass in my judgement the wider considerations of development, of social and actual cost, community support and the balance to be sought.

My submission is to support the thrust of the Unit, and to offer whatever help I can.

Because this issue is so complex, individuals, groups and stake-holders, while a part of the solution (and perhaps the problem), express their special interest and understanding subjectively. However it is probably by these inclusive means that progress can be achieved in a meaningful way.

I am rather obsessed by the passage of time before such an ideal goal can be achieved. The longer it takes, the more difficult it is, the impost on future innocent generations escalates. Time is "the essence" as they say, but doing nothing is unconscionable.

I welcome the opportunity to make supportive comments, even if there is nothing really powerful or new that I can contribute.

SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

As a Local Government Councillor, a scientist (physics), I have studied the impact of housing design not only on social issues such as privacy, streetscape, and density, but the greenhouse emissions and global warming.

While I am endeavouring to influence my Council along these directions, due to the changing personnel (Councillors and officers), and the influence of powerful small groups and wealthy individuals who control those elected to a large degree, Town Planning Schemes and attendant Policies have little effect.

However I am continuing to present and recommend the information, and the WILL through the Council (and all Councils) as an imperative, to address such issues with the wealth of expertise available from inspired builders, scientific home guides, and the excellent technical manual "HOME".

This publication (University of Technology, Sydney), principal author Chris Reardon, with a wide range of National and State greenhouse, environment, transport and technical bodies – is very impressive. I was told of it by one of this State's sustainable builders from whom I sought information, Griff Morris. He told me that

all local governments would have it. After enquiring with our Department, they finally found it on someone's shelf!!

I recommend it to you.

The quoted figure of 20% (sometimes more) of total Australian greenhouse emissions comes from housing. My experience is that if the "community" sees a way of helping global warming, they generally feel altruistic enough to influence the way it can be locally achieved. This in turn influences Local Government, with its inherent weakness of temporary Councillors elected by the votes of a voluntary system of election – easily manipulated by self-interest power groups/individuals.

I seek the support in whatever way possible to advance the issue of more greenhouse sustainable planning and housing in Local Government. The State Government initiative of establishing this Unit, and its Departments of Planning and infrastructure, Environment, Local Government, Transport and any other that can influence the successful outcome, can make a major global difference.

I suggest that the definition and direction of this unit should, by implication, involve all Departments and instrumentalities. Otherwise it is only a microcosm, a poor reflection, of the processes within society, which are failing for the same reasons. They must be co-ordinated.

If you can suggest any initiatives I am not currently invoking, I would appreciate.

Yours sincerely

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