

28/03/02

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Professor Peter Newman
Director Sustainability Policy Unit
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Dear Professor Newman

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my ideas on sustainability in W.A. I am currently a part time student at Murdoch tafe studying Land Management. My background involves horticultural work although environmental work has become part of my everyday work load in creating a healthy environment. I believe everybody should take action on this global issue and new approaches should be taken to living.

I feel sustainable living should be a part of our community. With an ever increasing population in W.A. a balance of environmental management and Social and economic growth is essential. Our Society has to be educated and informed of our environment issues through different avenues of education eg. Schools, training, seminars, local government.

In our society sustainability has to be understood and taken more seriously for our environment to benefit. I believe in areas of energy and water we could benefit dramatically. Natural energy resources can be replaced with renewable energy and energy efficiency. Our water catchments could benefit if incentives were given to people wishing to recycle greywater and installing rainwater tanks to conserve this precious resource. Energy is an ever increasing demand and I believe local and state government can help with urban design and building design requirements to conserve natural energy.

Agricultural land rehabilitation has become a serious project in the Wheatbelt and it deserves a lot more attention. Environmental organisation should be having a lot more involvement with the hands on work needed on these degraded sites. Incentives should be given to farmers who revegetate degraded areas of their farms. More landowners have to be informed and educated of the benefits of such work. Biodynamic farming needs to be introduced to farmers with government subsidy as many of our farmers are in debt to creditors and can not afford to not achieve optimum yields by using chemical pesticides and fertilisers.

I believe local government, business and community involvement are essential parties to be demonstrating sustainability in our society.

Education on what sustainability is has become the main focus in our society. Without the public becoming aware of human impacts on our environment our community can

not be involved in protecting it for future generations. I feel this can be achieved through business, local government, schools, community groups and indigenous groups.

I feel Western Australia is a beautiful state and our natural resources are essential for an unspoilt environment. The State Sustainability Strategy will be a new challenge for our state, but I feel it will help promote new ideas on this global issue and I look forward to a future of sustainable living.