

John Snowden
10 Morrell Way
Armadale 6112
Phone: 9399 6075

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Professor Peter Newman
Director, Sustainability Policy Unit
Policy Office
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Dear Professor Peter Newman

I thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns and ideas on sustainability in Western Australia, I am 32 years old and have a wife and two daughters, one is 11 and the other is 3 year old. We also have another baby on the way in August. I have previously run a lawn mowing business for the past 11 years and I am currently attending Murdoch TAFE for a certificate IV of Land Management.

I believe that sustainability is a very important issue, which needs to be brought to the attention of all Western Australians. If there was a better awareness of sustainability within Western Australia we would all benefit in a cleaner environment and a healthier life style. I believe the government should initiate an educational awareness on sustainability of all levels of the community. The recycling bins provided by local Shires is a good example of sustainability being initiated and working to reduce the amount of rubbish going into our landfill sites.

We have a big problem with the amount of rubbish we throw away, a lot of this rubbish could be turned into compost and used in domestic gardens. I feel that as the local Shires have provided households with recycle bins it would also be a good idea to provide households with compost bins. The cost of the compost bins could be added into our rates. Along with the compost bins there would also be a need for education on what can go in these compost bins and the advantages to the environment. It would also be a good idea to set these compost bins up in Schools so the children can be actively involved in recycling their own wastes and educated in class on the benefits of these behaviours. Also TAFEs, High Schools, Universities and local Businesses should be apart of these compost programs.

I also feel a lot of water is wasted each year by all households. We should be utilizing the water that runs out of our gutters. If each household has a rainwater tank this would at least ease some of the pressure on our water supply. The government could subsidize part of the installation costs and let the ratepayers pay the cost of the rainwater tank off in their rates over a certain period. This should be a voluntary environment exercise for the householders to decide to take part in.

As a family we spend a lot of leisure time at Cockburn Sound. This is a beautiful marine environment, which should be maintained for future generations. Each time we go to Cockburn Sound we find rubbish amongst the rocks and along the foreshore. We always have a rubbish bag with us and spend about 10 minutes picking up rubbish that we see. I feel this is a small contribution towards this rubbish problem. My idea is to place rubbish bags at the boat ramps and in the car parks, the same concept and the doggie-poo bags, which are distributed. The public could grab a rubbish bag and pick up rubbish as they walk around. Also the fishermen and boat users could stow their rubbish in these

bags instead of dropping the rubbish in amongst the rocks or water, stopping all this rubbish being washed onto the foreshore.

Finally I would once again thank yo for the opportunity to express my ideas on sustainability in Western Australia. This is a beautiful and diverse state, which needs to be conserved for our children and the future generations. Nobody should miss out on seeing the beauty of this state.

Yours sincerely

John Snowden.