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Professor Peter Newman,
Director, Sustainability Policy Unit,
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
15th Floor, 197 St Georges Tce
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Submission on WA State Sustainability Strategy

Dear Peter,

We submit the following for consideration in development of the WA Sustainability Strategy.

Your Consultation Paper notes that solving problems of un-sustainability requires a link between the problems and the social organisations to do something about them. We are concerned with this issue in Landcare programs, where there is a **challenge to organise and mobilise volunteers** willing to contribute to bushland care after it has been decided that a course of action is scientifically and agronomically justified.

The challenge has two aspects.

- **The first challenge is to locate and organise the people** from both rural and urban backgrounds who are able, willing, (and usually keen) to help with this task. These include people who are retired, unemployed, serving community service orders, and also those who are otherwise employed but take their recreation working on environmental projects.

A solution could be to establish positions in the state called (something like) **Sustainability Coordinators**, who for each project, would:

- identify and recruit volunteers and other sources of labour,
- liaise with owners or controllers of the site where the problem exists,
- arrange for volunteers to get to and from the site,
- ensure food, accommodation and tools are available if necessary, and
- arrange supervision of tasks by qualified people.

- **The second challenge is to provide appropriate insurance for such people.**

One solution would seem to be to establish a **state-wide insurance scheme** for people who are working unpaid in the public interest. The policy would need to be simple, and need not be generous. However it must be adequate to assure

- (a) farmers, public authorities or others in employers' or managers' roles that they will be adequately protected against claims for personal or property damage, and
- (b) those working on projects that they will be cared for in the event of an accident.

Without such a scheme, it will be difficult to mobilise the large untapped sources of volunteer labour who are available to work promoting the state's sustainability.

Sincerely,

K.G. and I.C. Johnson