

In reference to the enquiry for comments for making Western Australia sustainable I would like to comment specifically on the use of water.

I recently watched a program on ABC referring to a system operating at the Vines in the Swan Valley which is not connected to the metropolitan sewer grid. As a result this property had developed a system for using collected rain-water and re-using grey water. This system cost about \$7,500 which I think many Western Australian would be prepare to invest, however apparently those properties that are on the sewer grid are not legally able to use this alternative system. I think the most constructive thing our government could do to endorse and implement a sustainable lifestyle in Western Australia is to legalise this alternative access to water. From the evidence presented on the program, the property using alternative water sources had developed a veritable oasis, with great expanses of greenery, adding to the richness of the biomass of what would have been a very poor and arid region. A representative for the Water Coporation made some justification for the necessity to maintain the current system, and I do understand that the alternative system would allow for possible contamination of soil if inappropriate materials were allowed to pollute the soil without being removed by a sewerage system. However I think that the education on pollutants, particularly by those interested in conservation and sustainable living styles and those willing to invest in alternative systems could be relied upon. The small risk of pollutants could be diminished with an adequate education program and the savings would be considerable. I think this system deserves serious attention from the government.

Many thanks

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