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Dear Professor Newman

Thank you for the opportunity to place my views on sustainability in the State of Western Australia. I believe sustainability is not only worthwhile it is necessary as it presents a Chance for Western Australia to branch out and develop sustainable technologies, through our huge abundance of natural resources and become a world leader in this field.

The benefits for our state and country are boundless. I feel that the development in technology will not only benefit our current generation, but will assist in giving future generations an insight into the mistakes past generations made, but more importantly how we fixed these problems.

I believe three of our greatest assets for sustainability we have here in Western Australia, are the amount of sunlight year round, the constant wind we receive and our majestic, yet depleting forests of the South West. Are we utilizing these assets properly? I believe not.

The Wind Farm in Albany is a great example. I have visited it on previous trips down South and marvelled at this great initiative but it is not enough. I feel the Government along with large corporations and the private sector, that being small businesses, farmers and general citizens must take a greater role in developing and investing in these sorts of projects and initiatives. Whether it be through Government Grants, donations or corporate sponsorship money or just volunteer work, we all must play a part.

My thoughts are if we have a wind farm in the South West, why is it not possible to have one closer to the Perth CBD. The stretch of Wanneroo Road past the Yanchep National Park right through to Lancelin and as far as Jurien, is a prime location for such a project. The land consists of unused farmland, with degraded paddocks, grazing a few head of sheep. There is also a constant supply of wind all year round.

Would it be possible for the Government to lease or purchase some of this land off the farmers? If this was possible a few wind farms could be established and the electricity produced could supply all the local farmers needs and perhaps supply power to the new Electric Train from Perth to Mandurah, easing pressure on the standard power grid.

Solar technology is another field in which much more investment and awareness needs to be provided, to make our homes and businesses much more sustainable. I have recently left the building trade, which I have been apart of for the past 9 years. In these years I feel the building industry has stagnated although the move to truss roofing has helped, still solar powered housing may be the shining light. The Government spends a lot of money in homeowner grants, surely some of this money could be passed on to help develop a cheaper more viable solar powered house, to ease pressure on our environment caused by fossil fuel driven power stations.

The current Governments stance on our forests by reduced or ceased logging in the old growth forests is a very large step forward. Although some jobs may be lost now, the future job prospects in Eco-Tourism, Tree Farming and Eco-Studies are there to be exploited. The Government must continue in vesting in old growth research to find better ways to manage the forests and how they are used. Providing training to willing farmers of the commercial benefits of tree fanning, and perhaps absorb some of the initial costs in establishing a tree farm is one idea. The Government has the power to propel Western Australia into the 21st Century with just a little bit of insight.

In just the short time I have been studying Land Management at TAFE, I have had my eyes opened to the way in which we have abused our natural environment. However, it has also shown me the positives in how we can fix and harness our unique environment. Although the broader community must play a part, the Government must take the lead and demonstrate to the community through education, and willingness to act on issues involving Western Australia, and its resources. Through this action Western Australia will not only benefit now but in years to come through a range of different avenues like varied employment, scientific research and world acclaim.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Mr Lindsay Snow