

Our Ref: 209-02 #01

Prof. Peter Newman
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Department of the Premier & Cabinet
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RDear Professor Newman

RE: SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY: SUBMISSION

Thank you for meeting with Ian Cowie and I on Monday 18 March. I found the meeting to be informative and constructive.

The role of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development can be described as one of capacity building with governance. The Department aims to assist both local governments and regional communities to develop and also to support compliance with local government law.

In terms of sustainability, the Department is promoting this in a number of ways. For instance, it will be a focus of legislative reviews, such as the review of the *Regional Development Commissions Act*. It will also be a key focus of the regional development strategy which is currently being drafted by this Department in conjunction with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The strategy will be based around the concepts of economic, social and environmental development.

The Department is actively working with local governments and is supportive of arrangements which generate efficiencies and sustainable outcomes through resource sharing. Further, the Department is co-ordinating the process of establishing an overarching partnership arrangement between the State Government and local governments. A working party on State and local government relations has been formed which is establishing principles for partnership and identifying case studies which can be implemented to reflect new partnership arrangements. One of these case studies will be in natural resource management.

I wish you well in your endeavours and look forward to working closely with the Sustainability Policy Unit in the coming year

Yours sincerely,

Cheryl Gwilliam
A/DIRECTOR GENERAL

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