

3 April 2002

Professor Peter Newman
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Policy Office
Department of Premier and Cabinet
15th Floor, 197 St. Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Professor Newman

**SUBMISSION COMMENTS FOR THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State Sustainability Strategy for Western Australia.

As the peak industry body representing automotive businesses in Western Australia, the MTA-WA recognises its duty to promote to its members the opportunities and responsibilities that lie within sustainability.

The consultation paper briefly recognised the challenge that faces small to medium sized businesses that may not necessarily have the capacity, resources or expertise to adopt more sustainable practices. With this recognition should come workable strategies that can be implemented at the ground level. The Green Stamp program is an excellent example of what industry and Government can achieve when there is true consultation between the two sectors. Members of the automotive industry are readily adopting the regulatory information and advice promoted by the Green Stamp program as it is relevant and succinct to their businesses.

Included in the final Sustainability Strategy should be the appropriate resources to help industry associations develop the initiatives that will promote better social and environmental outcomes. These initiatives need to be developed by industry in close consultation with the appropriate Government agencies.

Similarly, though there is an important role for educational institutions such as TAFE's and Universities in training 'junior' workers in industry, their ability to reach the majority of individuals already in the workforce is limited. Again this is a niche that industry associations can fulfil and in some circumstances already do.

Though it is important to raise industry awareness of sustainability it is of equal importance to reward those businesses that achieve an acceptable standard of practice. One way is to implement licensing systems that reward good practices rather than impose a fee and additional responsibility. The *Environmental Protection (Liquid Waste) Regulations 1996* are an example of a poorly planned, managed, implemented and resourced licensing system that has captured a

small number of honest businesses that are already implementing good practices. Fair and equitable licensing systems need to be implemented to discourage poor practices rather than reward them.

A second reward for businesses, particularly SME's, is the purchasing power of the Government agencies themselves. All Government agencies should address sustainability in their procedures for government procurement and contractors. However, for this to occur there needs to be a clear criteria that SME's must achieve. Again, this is an issue that the Green Stamp program is proving is feasible even with an industry as diverse as the automotive trade.

In conclusion I would like to congratulate the Government on its commitment to address the issues of sustainability and I look forward to reading the final strategy that will hopefully deliver the ground level initiatives necessary for its success.

Yours sincerely

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Green Stamp Coordinator