

Western Australia  
State Sustainability Strategy

A Comment Paper:

Opportunities for Sustainability in Western Australia

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## Preface

The public usually has only inadequate knowledge of most of the issues of any importance with which our governments are involved.

This submission is limited to the knowledge we have gained through work and industry experience and a little information gleaned from discussions within the community and working with students.

Nevertheless we trust this paper is helpful to the State Government when reviewing information and deciding on sustainable strategies for Western Australia.

## Review Cycle

A recommendation is made that the State Government run a repeat of this request for public comment on a five (5) yearly cycle.

## Student Involvement

Ask Year 10 - Year 12 and University Students to prepare individual or group submissions. They should generate many bright and relevant ideas.

## 1. A Strategic Future

Well thought out decisions on future strategic positioning for Western Australia should not be limited by only an analysis of our existing “Capability Platform”.

The critical issue(s) is to identify the gaps between the State’s existing competencies and what is required and imagined for its future. This is a difficult and painful process as often the changes that would be required are subjective and sometimes nebulous, and most probably will involve a major program of cultural change for the community.

The new culture and the new competencies that are perceived to be needed to reach a perceived future would be dramatically different from those presently existing in the community. Initiatives to develop new elements will inevitably be fragile and will need to be protected from the established order and accepted wisdom.

Initiatives planned to be taken to move to the future cannot be measured using normal criteria of profitability. A major criterion for success is that the chosen initiatives do in fact, move the State in the intended direction. This exercise will be experimental, and in the context of high ambiguity, is likely to experience early failures. There must be flexibility to modify plans as ideas and possibilities are explored. There must be an ability to retreat from failures, without the program being abandoned. This exercise will demand that a mandate be thoroughly negotiated at the outset which is sufficiently robust to survive the probable adversity.

The critical and fundamental importance of a proposed strategic change, and the inherent reluctance of many of our established organizations to embrace it, will make the management of a strategy for the State the most important task of the leaders of Western Australia.

## 2. An Imaginative Future

Creativity should be considered and nurtured as more important than “knowledge” or “information” or all the extraneous items and activities that we now label as IT.

## 3. Sustainability

Conservation should mean “use of and replacement of our resources”.  
See Glossary.

#### 4. A Healthy Community

##### Air

- Pollution optimised
- Ionisation
- Other

##### Water

- Economical Supplies (eg Consider Libya – and the Man Made River)
- Re-energised Water
- Clean, healthy water
- Stormwater to be used to replenish ground water, plant and animal life and not unnecessarily drained to the oceans.
- Waste-water recycled for industrial use.
- House-holds to adopt roof water collection and the recycling of grey water.  
( See also Housing: the eco-village concept.)
- Other

##### Energy

- Electricity: - House-holds and industry to generate electricity via PV panel mounted on rooftops. Reduce the need for power stations.
- Gas: - Utilise LNG Micro-Cell technology to provide economical fuel for vehicles, industry and process plants.  
- HYDROGEN - accelerate its use in WA. (Establish an institute to study and pioneer alternate fuels for the State)
- Other

##### Waste

- Recycle all waste materials: ie domestic, industrial, construction industry, process plant waste, animal processing waste, hazardous chemical wastes, etc....
- Other

## 5. A Wealthy Community

### 5.1 Economy

- WA has a common time zone with a large part of Asia. Make use of it.
- Promote WA as a significant Regional Financial Centre.
- Consider a Tax-Free Zone in WA. Attract trans-world finance.
- Search for new models of economic and social development. “Triple Bottom Line” accounting is only at best, an indication of the direction in which we should be moving.
- What can we do to improve our State Money Supply?

### 5.2 Society

- Achieve a very high level of literacy for WA; our education standards are definitely falling with respect to the rest of the World.
- We can learn from our Aboriginal people and our multi-cultural Community. We only need to ask them.
- Replenish our Rural Communities.

## 6. Education

- Introduce an Institute of Advanced Learning concept to the environs of WA
- Midland – establish a university with specialisation in transport, ie road, rail, air, space, tunnel (gravity trains) and its infrastructure. etc...
- Fremantle - a similar concept but concentrating on marine transport and its necessary industries.
- Northam - concentrate on Advanced Agriculture and Land Management, with campuses at York, Beverley, etc...
- Broome / Derby – Advanced Agriculture Technology, Land and Water Management. etc.... eg a Food Basket for Asia. and especially China.
- Port Hedland / Karratha – Water and Land Management, Gas and Oil. Mineral Processing, etc...
- General - Create an Open Learning University, with community-wide participation.
- Schools - facilities open for longer periods of time together with open learning courses available on the inter-net.

## 7. Infra-Structure

We should look at our “Planning” for the State from a macro-perspective. eg consider the framework of the entire State and importantly, the NODES that link the infrastructure together. Of major importance is transport and communication.

## 8. New Industries

- Aquaculture

- Hydroponics
- Materials Technologies
- Biological Sciences
- Other

## 9. Housing

Consider a concept of group housing (eg an eco-village which is community-orientated), instead of the typical urban (sterile) sprawl. eg 10 – 20 houses in a village layout, can equitably share the cost of community services such as grey water and storm water recycling, PV power generation, high quality communication equipment, shared workshops and hobby rooms that can be used to train our youth in life skills, (similar concept to how apprenticeships worked in the past) etc...

## 10. Logistics

- Swan Valley – promote as a “knowledge centre” region that is a dynamic generator of ideas, talent and investment opportunities. (eg in a Silicon Valley mode)
- Perth Airport – move to Pearce. ( ie WA will soon need to accommodate a new generation of very large aircraft. The runways will be too short and the operations will be unsafe for aircraft movements over the surrounding densely populated metropolis.) Create a new “garden” city on the airport grounds.
- Pearce RAAF Base - move to Learmonth or Exmouth. Upgrade its status to a fully operational base. (in cooperation with the Federal Government.)
- Establish a major Media Centre ( say in East Perth, together with the ABC ). This can act as a powerful propaganda/marketing tool for promoting WA to Asia and the World.

## 11. Finance

- Allow Taxation Credits to encourage trans-world funds to WA.
- Provide tangible incentives for the present major WA asset owners to re-invest their profits in the State.
- Lobby the Commonwealth Government to return a larger portion of our taxation revenue to WA.
- Look at World Best Practices to create investment / finance packages to attract trans-world funds. eg Spain for their high-speed trains, etc. Libya for its Man-made River for an economical water supply.

## 12. Trading Partners

## 12.1 Asia

Asian societies offer Western Australia more than the promise of prosperity. They offer answers to vexing questions such as how to combine fast economic, technological and social change with relative social stability; how to reconcile freedom with order; and how to break the paralysis of special-interest politics by keeping government small and focussed on the things that government does best while leaving day to day business to families and society as a whole.

- SE Asia – will, soon, require greater quantities of food and services from outside its own territories. WA is very well placed to develop the Kimberley area into an extensive staple food-growing region.
- China - by 2030, China will have some \$1 Trillion available in superannuation type funds to use to build its necessary and vital infrastructure and to acquire service support industries. WA has the talent to work in these areas.
- India - is poised to grow as quickly as SE Asia has in the past 30 years.

These countries are our near neighbours and we should be making every effort to attract a higher degree of cooperation with them, as quickly as possible.

## 13. Transport

See Infrastructure.

## 14. Tourism

- Promote WA in Asia. Many more hundreds of millions of the peoples in Asia will, in the near future, have sufficient disposable income to travel overseas, and it is hoped to WA.
- See Infrastructure
- Other

## GLOSSARY

Capability Platform - present areas of competencies within the State

- Sustainability
- 1. capable of being sustained.
  - 2. ( of economic development, energy, resources, etc.)  
capable of being maintained at a steady rate of growth  
without exhausting natural resources or causing  
ecological damage: sustainable development.

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- Rohwer, J., Asia Rising, Simon and Schuster, New York, USA, 1995.