

25 March 2002

Professor Peter Newman,  
Director, Sustainability Policy Unit,  
Policy Office,  
Department of the Premier & Cabinet,  
197 St Georges Tce.  
Perth WA 6000

Dear Professor Newman,

It is hard to know where to start on such an important issue as a Sustainable Future.

Yes, I totally **support** a sustainable future for W.A., Australia as a whole, and finally on a global level. I **thank** your Government for acknowledging the importance of our environment, & making a commitment working towards a more sustainable future. I have issues of concern about the future on a local & global level, and am appreciative of this opportunity to be able to express these concerns.

A little about myself, I moved to W.A. from Qld. 3 years ago. I am presently attending Murdoch Campus of TAFE doing a part-time course 'Cert. IV in Land Management'. I am 46, married and have three children. I am very concerned about the **current abuse** of Natural Resources on a local & global level, and believe **sustainable management** will allow us to use these resources today, without causing irreversible destruction, for future generations.

**FORESTS** (including **Mangrove Forests**) & their destruction, are a major environmental issue. **Clearfelling, logging, clearing & burning** of Old Growth & non Old Growth Forests must **cease to-day**. If logging is to continue, it needs to be **selectively** cleared & **sustainably managed**. **Strategies must** be in place, to ensure there is '**sustainable management**' within the '**Government & Timber Industry**', by people **educated** in **conservation management**.

Clearfelling, clearing & burning practices of past & present **MUST STOP**. We need to look at timber as a **sustainable natural resource**, where environment is **first** priority, & economics are **second**. This is a **LOCAL, AUSTRALIA WIDE & GLOBAL ISSUE**. Therefore Local Government, State Government & Federal Governments must look at this resource **seriously**, and **change** present **unsustainable practices**.

**AUSTRALIAN SOILS** generally, are not highly fertile. The introduction of European farming methods over the past 200 years has not helped the fertility levels of our soils. The destruction of our forests, overfarming, synthetic fertilisers/pesticides, the introduction of stock, & rising salinity levels are

contributing factors in the degradation of our soils. I believe, the Government needs to look more closely at **alternative farming** methods.

**ORGANIC FARMING** is by far a more sustainable method of farming for our environment. It will **enrich** our soils, by creating a more natural eco system, & although more labour intensive, will be providing job opportunities, in farming communities.

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED** farming methods (& foods) are **not natural**. We need to correct present problems, **NOT** create future problems.

**SALINITY** is a very serious issue, which must be addressed on a local & global level. Clearing of forest results in soil degradation, erosion, fluctuations in the water table, **rising salinity levels**, and so on. Forests need to be protected, as they are an **important** part of the **world's eco-system**.

**MAJOR TREE PLANTING** with a **diversity** of trees suited to each specific area, needs to be implemented. This would eventually create an eco system beneficial to our soils, provide a habitat for our fauna & flora, & possibly help with salinity problems. It is also an opportunity for creating employment & education. **Salinity problems** will continue to escalate, unless we stop our current destructive unsustainable practices.

**DEVELOPMENTS** of resorts (i.e. Ningaloo Reef) in natural areas need to be seriously considered. Areas of wilderness **must** be protected. Development in natural areas, no matter how **sustainable** it claims to be, will destroy fragile eco systems. Coastal developments cause pollution both in the ocean & on the land. Marine & land fauna & flora communities will be **seriously** affected, & the damage of these eco systems may be irreparable

Local Governments need to take a more sustainable look at land clearing for urban, industrial & rural development. Some of the clearing occurring on a local level needs to be addressed, as large pockets of woodland & native bush are being lost for development. This is a destructive & unnecessary practice, where economics overrides environment.

Selective clearing of these areas is far more *sustainable*. Perhaps a better option is to keep a **large** area of **natural untouched bushland**, within each new development as a nature reserve. Build the development around this area of bushland, so the flora & fauna of the area, is minimally disturbed, & the community have the privilege of being able to keep their natural heritage in *their* localised area.

**EDUCATING** people and making the community **aware**, that **our** consumerist society, is destroying **our** living & non-living environment, is important.

Public awareness off issues like:-

- Rubbish in our rivers, creeks, oceans, waterways, etc. *does* cause pollution & death of marine life & habitats.

- Polluting our atmosphere **will** result in depletion of our ozone layer, a build-up of green house gases, & health problems in our community.
- Deforestation *does* cause air & water pollution, soil degradation, erosion, salinity problems etc.
- Deforestation & urban sprawl causes loss of natural habitats for our native flora & fauna, which eventually leads to rare & endangered species, and eventually extinction.

Environment, Economics, & Social issues are all **equally** important. Education **is** vital at **all** levels. Our Governments, Our Business sector & Our Community, must be educated in **working together**, for a sustainable future.

***A sustainable future is important for the wellbeing of future generations, & the earth we all share.***

Yours truly,

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