



**Western Australian  
Local Government Association**

# **SUBMISSION TO THE STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

APRIL 2002

*We share, not own this world, and recognise the right of all species to exist.*

*We believe that the economy, the human activities that process natural resources into goods and services that satisfy human and societal needs, must become socially just and ecologically efficient.*

*We accept shared responsibility for sustainable development. We will involve citizens and work in partnership with all levels of government and local stakeholders including Non Government Organisations, towards our global vision in a comprehensive, integrated way.*

*We acknowledge that globalisation poses significant challenges for the development of sustainability at the local level, and as such, all stakeholders and governments need to manage the distribution of wealth and access to essential resources in ways which ensure a fair and sustainable society.*

Excerpt from:  
The "Sustaining Our Communities" Declaration

Endorsed at the International Local Agenda 21 Conference in Adelaide, 3-6 March 2002.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

Following the Labor Party's election commitment to sustainable development, the Sustainability Policy Unit was established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet. In November 2001 the Premier announced the development of a Sustainability Strategy for Western Australia, and a consultation paper was released to outline the process to develop the Strategy, and to provide guidance on the preparation of submissions. The Strategy is due to be announced towards the end of 2002.

1. The consultation paper does not specify any strict terms of reference for submissions, but references many issues in which Local Government is intimately involved. State and Local Government are presently preparing an over-arching State – Local Government Partnership Agreement that includes commitments related to sustainability. The Western Australian Local Government Association (the Association) believes close cooperation between the State and local government is critical to the realisation of an effective State Sustainability Strategy, and accordingly this submission seeks to establish that the State should incorporate local government in a comprehensive and integrated manner.
2. The Association therefore proposes that a Sustainability Partnership is formalised (under the umbrella of the more general State – Local Partnership) at the time the Strategy is finalised; and in the meantime a Roundtable is established as an embryonic Advisory Council to progress the Strategy formulation. Accordingly this submission aims to set the "agenda" of the Roundtable and its successor Advisory council.

### The Role of Local Government

3. There are numerous interfaces between State and Local Government in the delivery of services and the general management of communities in Western Australia. Within a sustainability framework, Local Government is the most significant and influential institutional stakeholder.
4. The role of Local Government in Western Australia has evolved with the changing needs of the communities they represent. This evolution, together with the devolution of responsibility / functionality through Federal / State Government policy decisions and amendments have significantly increased the pressure on Local Government budgets.
5. Local Governments play a significant and increasing role in the provision of **community infrastructure** (eg libraries, sport and recreation facilities, youth facilities). Local Governments also provide a range of services and programs such as festivals, fairs, sporting programs, recreation and leisure programs etc. There is a need to clearly define the role and responsibilities of the three spheres of Government to avoid duplication, identify clear strategic directions and maximise the use of scarce resources in supporting individuals and families and strengthening the capacity of communities.
6. In the **municipal waste** area, Local Governments offer a range of services far beyond their legislative requirements, including kerbside containerised recycling services and household hazardous waste collection and storage. A lack of strategic direction from State Government has resulted in a uncoordinated approach to waste management and an unfair burden on Local Government.
7. Local Government also plays a key role in the **Planning** processes in Western Australia.

Planning Policies	are made both by the WAPC and local governments
Regional Structure Plans	are adopted by the WAPC in consultation with Local Governments
District Structure Plans	Are prepared and approved by Local Governments in consultation with DPI

Local Structure Plans	are approved by Local Government and the WAPC
Region Schemes	are adopted / amended by the WAPC in consultation with Local Governments
Town Planning Schemes	are under the control of Local Governments
Subdivision	is the responsibility of the WAPC in consultation with Local Government
Development Approval	is generally the responsibility of Local Government

8. Local government is also involved in all of the various processes that determine **Transport** outcomes and there is continual dialogue between all levels of government on all these issues. These include many Steering Committees, Advisory Committees and Working Groups, plus Regional Road Groups, WAPC Committees, etc.

### **Sustainability and Local Government**

9. Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was adopted by more than 178 Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992.
10. Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 specifically highlighted the important role of local authorities in driving the sustainable development agenda, and set the course for action. This initiative has become known as Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and in the view of many, has led national and provincial level governments worldwide in advancing the cause of sustainability. In Adelaide in March this year, at the International Local Agenda 21 Conference, "Sustaining Our Communities", Local Government re-stated their support to sustainability and made commitments to action by continuing the implementation of Agenda 21 via:
- Local governments and communities
  - Partnerships with non-government organisations, business and the education sector
  - Partnerships with National, State and Territory governments
11. Some 6,416 local authorities in 113 countries have either made a formal commitment to Local Agenda 21 or are actively undertaking the process. By the end of 2000 over 70 Councils in Australia were either starting or had developed a Local Agenda 21 programme.
12. In Western Australia, the Association has a key role in coordinating, facilitating, training / development and providing advice on Local Government activities that support sustainability, including the following activities:
- Sustainable Development and Local Agenda 21
  - Natural Resource Management and Salinity
  - Biodiversity Conservation (Native Vegetation Management)
  - Greenhouse Policy including cities for climate protection.
  - Environmental Management and Planning (including Water Resource Management and Coastal Management)
13. To date, 15 Western Australian Local Governments have formally committed to a Local Agenda 21 process including the Cities of Fremantle, Armadale, Mandurah, Nedlands, Subiaco, Stirling, Joondalup and Cockburn, the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and the Town of Cottesloe. Many more Councils have begun to examine their operations within a Local Agenda 21 framework or are progressing toward the sustainable management of their operations without having formally committed to a Local Agenda 21 process.
14. The Association is also active in the **Natural Resource Management** area, including:
- coordinating and hosting of the Perth Biodiversity Project.
  - delivering training workshops in regional areas on Local Government's role as a native vegetation manager
  - promoting and implementing the National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy.
  - Local Government representation on key State Government bodies such as the Roadside Conservation Committee.
15. Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP™) is an international programme delivered in collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO) that assists local governments and their communities reduce

greenhouse gas emissions. As at 31st December 2001 67% of the State's population live in CCP™ council areas.

16. The Association also plays a significant role generally in environmental management and planning, including:
- Convening and managing the Coastal Management Advisory Group.
  - Housing the Regional Coastal Facilitator
  - Development of initiatives and alliances in Urban Storm water management.
  - Promotion and development of opportunities for reclaimed water usage.
  - Floodplain management / education and definition of roles and responsibilities.
17. A lack of resources has been the major difficulty encountered by the Association. Until the Perth Biodiversity Project commenced, which accounts for three of the Associations environmental team, three officers were responsible for engaging 144 Councils on most of the environmental issues current in the State and Commonwealth.

### **Towards an Integrated State Sustainability Strategy**

18. Given the role of Local Government, and its sustainability progress to date, the Association believes that there is overwhelming logic in combining (existing and planned) Local Government and (prospective) State initiatives into an integrated State Sustainability Strategy. Conceptually therefore the Strategy would comprise:
- Actions within the ambit of the State Government
  - Actions within the ambit of Local Government
  - Actions involving State and Local Government acting in unison

**The second of these then effectively becomes a subset of the overall Strategy, and the third the focus of a Sustainability Partnership Agreement between State and Local Government.**

19. The Association sees many potential benefits in such an integrated approach, including:

*Alignment of existing Local Governments'* **sustainability programmes with the State agenda would enable the State Strategy to gain an immediate foothold across the State through the local activists.**

*Reach of the State Strategy* **will be much more significant if Local Governments are incorporated in its development and implementation.**

*Common Approaches* **An integrated approach also offers the opportunity for the State and Local Government to adopt a common set of policies, processes and tools with which to implement the Strategy.**

*Regional Governance* **An integrated Strategy and a meaningful partnership between State and Local Government offers the best opportunity to explore the potential shape and benefits of regionally based action.**

20. It is proposed that the component of the State Strategy involving interaction between State and Local Government be enunciated as a Common Sustainability Framework. This Framework would set the higher level goals, objectives and performance indicators for the integrated Strategy, and set the direction for the specific ongoing programmes / action plans related to the Strategy. The proposed Goal and Objectives of the Framework are:

Goal	Objectives
State and Local Government acting in unison to realise a sustainable future for the Western Australian community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Integrated State / Local Govt approaches to Sustainability</li><li>2. Institutional accountability for Sustainability</li><li>3. Alignment of State and Local Government Policy / Processes with Sustainability Principles</li><li>4. Common State / LG Sustainability methodologies &amp; resources</li></ol>

21. A Sustainability Partnership between State and Local Government has been previously proposed as the vehicle for advancing the sustainability objectives of both parties. Until the overall State Strategy is developed, and the institutional arrangements underpinning it within the State Government are determined, the Association feel it is most appropriate at this time to establish only the Heads of Agreement for the Partnership. It is proposed that this instrument will establish the:

- **Aims and Objectives of the Partnership**
- **Broad principles of its operations**
- **Interim arrangements during the remaining phase of the State Strategy development**

22. A Draft Heads of Agreement has been prepared for discussion.

Aim	Objectives
<b>To develop and implement a Common Sustainability Framework between the State Government of Western Australia and Western Australian Local Governments, that efficiently and effectively advances sustainability in Western Australia.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>To develop a communication framework between Local Government and relevant State Government Departments that facilitates the implementation of respective sustainability objectives</b></li> <li>• <b>To identify State and Local Government policies, legislation and activities that assist or inhibit the achievement of sustainability in Western Australia;</b></li> <li>• <b>To develop State and Local Government policies, legislation or activities that facilitate sustainability;</b></li> <li>• <b>Where appropriate, State Government to provide resources to Local Government to assist in the planning and implementation of sustainability; and</b></li> <li>• <b>For Local Government to assist in the development of an integrated State Sustainability Strategy.</b></li> </ul>

23. It is envisaged that a Local Government Sustainability Advisory Council (LGSAC) will be established in order to manage the State / Local Government Partnership. Such a body will have membership derived from:

- **The lead State Government body for Sustainability**
- **The Association (representing Local Government)**
- **Relevant State Government Agencies**

24. As an interim arrangement that it is proposed that a Local Government Sustainability Roundtable is established The Association envisages that the Roundtable Activities will include the following:

- **Development of the *Sustainability Framework***
- **Establishment of *Working Groups* to progress activity towards meeting the objectives of the Framework**
- ***Information / Data collection***
- **Establishment of a *dialogue with State Agencies* to progress the development of the Common Framework and its various initiatives**
- **Implement an *Immediate Action Programme* for activities prior to the announcement of the State Sustainability Strategy**
- **Completion of *Partnership Agreement***

## Priority Issues for State and Local Government

25. The Submission makes specific recommendations intended to set the agenda for the proposed State / Local Government Partnership. These recommendations fall under the broad objectives of the Sustainability Framework described above.

Framework Objective	Activity Area	Summary of Recommendations
<b><i>Institutional Accountability for Sustainability</i></b>		
	Governance	Political leadership / support for Sustainability Resources / funding to drive Sustainability Local Government Act Regional Governance
	Institutional Arrangements	Integration within State Government Legislative Review Strategic Plans Sustainability Reporting Information Flow
	Organisational Culture	Internal communications Notification of progress towards sustainability objectives CPD / training A State Sustainability Conference Sustainability Achievement awards
	Communications	"Plain English" definitions "Branding" of sustainability activities Simple high-level indicators
<b><i>Alignment of State and Local Government Policy / Processes with Sustainability Principles</i></b>		
	Planning / Building	Sustainable Planning / Liveable Neighbourhoods Home Energy rating system Water conservation measures Greywater Re-use Cultural Landscapes
	Community	Informed & appropriate community inputs / consultation
	R&D, Education & Training	Universities Partnerships Library and Information Services
	Transport	Local Government Transport Strategy An Accessibility Assessment System State / Local Vehicle purchasing Excessive Emission Vehicles
	Natural Resource Management	Native vegetation / Biodiversity
	Waste Management	Strategic Planning Hazardous Waste Management Waste Facility Siting Issues
<b><i>Common State / LG Sustainability methodologies &amp; resources</i></b>		
	Decision making	Sustainability Guidelines Improved Information base Access to expertise Sustainability Impact Assessment Life Cycle Assessment
	Sustainability Tools	Green procurement models Life Cycle Costing for facilities and equipment Standard Specifications Best value approach Checklists



# INTRODUCTION

## Background to strategy development

### ***Election Commitment***

The Labor Party's election platform for the 2001 election included a commitment to sustainable development via the following pledges:

*Labor will establish an ESD Unit to develop a strategy for sustainability to monitor and report on progress towards sustainable development; and undertake an ESD assessment of Cabinet submissions, proposed legislation and agreements entered into by Government.*

*The ESD Unit will ensure that ESD principles and practices are incorporated into all aspects of government decision-making (not just the environmental agencies) and will have an important role in coordinating and monitoring the economic, environmental and social impact assessments undertaken by relevant agencies.*

As result of this commitment the Sustainability Policy Unit was established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

### ***Announcement of State Sustainability Strategy***

In November 2001 the Premier announced the development of a Sustainability Strategy for Western Australia. A consultation paper was released by the Government in December 2001 to outline (inter alia) the process to develop the Strategy, and to provide guidance on the preparation of submissions, which the Government says "... the Strategy will be directly shaped by...".

The (revised) timetable for the Strategy development is:

Public submission process	closes at end of April 2002
Draft Sustainability Strategy	July 2002
Public comment	July – Sept 2002
Final Strategy	October 2002

### ***Submissions***

The consultation paper states that the Government has adopted the following definition of sustainability:

***Sustainability is the simultaneous achievement of environmental, economic and social goals.***

According to the consultation paper the Strategy will seek to advance towards their sustainability objective by identifying:

- priority sustainability issues for Western Australia;
- short, medium and long-term goals for sustainability across regions and sectors;
- targets and indicators that can be used to assess our progress in implementing the Strategy;
- actions to promote and encourage long-term progress to sustainability, including new initiatives, policy and legislative change and institutional reform;
- policy and management tools to improve decision making for sustainability;
- barriers to achieving sustainability and how these will be overcome;
- research and development priorities for sustainability;
- examples of best-practice sustainability in different sectors in Western Australia and how this can be achieved more widely
- means of securing ongoing commitment to sustainability by Government, business and community.

The consultation paper does not specify any strict terms of reference for submissions, but encourages:

- Ideas and aspirations for a sustainable Western Australia
- Identification of priority sustainability issues

Sustainability related issues identified specifically include:

- Governance and Society
- Natural Resource Management and Biological Diversity
- Economic Strategies
- Social Strategies

### **The Local Government Association's Submission**

In announcing the development of the State Sustainability Strategy, the Premier identified the following as examples of issues that the Strategy would address:

- *a more integrated transport system to ease the pressure on our roads and air quality;*
- *improving urban design of neighbourhoods, including 'solar orientation' of streets and houses and water efficient gardens, which will reduce the cost to consumers and the impact on our water and energy supplies;*
- *improved energy efficiency, including the use of sustainable energy technologies such as wind farms, solar arrays and hydrogen fuel cells, that reduces consumer costs and environmental impacts; and*
- *a waste reduction strategy that focuses not just on recycling of waste but also on how to reduce the amount created in the first place.*

Clearly local government is intimately involved in all of these issues, and close cooperation between the State and local government is critical to the realisation of the stated objectives. Local Government is already involved in a range of sustainability initiatives related to these issues (see Section 3) and is generally considered to be the leading tier of government with respect to sustainability progress. The consultation paper recognises the special position of Local Government and notes that a commitment exists to form a Sustainability Partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association (the Association).

On a broader front, State and Local Government are preparing an over-arching State – Local Government Partnership Agreement that includes commitments related to sustainability (see Section 3). Because of this unique position of Local Government, this submission seeks to establish that an effective and comprehensive State Sustainability Strategy should incorporate local government in a comprehensive and integrated manner. The submission therefore proposes that the Sustainability Partnership underpins a Common State / Local Government Sustainability Framework, coordinated by an Advisory Council, and made up of senior officers from both parties. However the Association considers that until the State Government's has determined the scope of the Strategy and its implementation plans and institutional arrangements are further advanced, that it is premature to progress the Sustainability Partnership Agreement at this time. The Association therefore proposes that the Partnership is formalised at the time the Strategy is finalised; and in the meantime a Roundtable is established as an embryonic Advisory Council to progress the Strategy formulation.

Accordingly this submission is intended to set the “agenda” of the Roundtable and its successor Advisory council, rather than propose a series of definitive recommendations.

## **Layout of submission**

- Section 2** Describes the core activities of Local Government and its interfaces with State and Federal Government.
- Section 3** Describes the Associations and Local Governments' existing sustainability related initiatives in the context of international and national action.
- Section 4** Sets out a proposed outline for an integrated approach to the State Sustainability Strategy, and proposes a draft Sustainability Framework for those components of the State Strategy that interface with / involve local government, and;
- Contains a draft Heads of Agreement for the proposed State / Local Government Partnership setting out the principles and interim arrangements under which:
- A State / Local Govt roundtable would be established as a precursor to the permanent Advisory Council
  - Working Groups would progress the priority areas of the Sustainability Framework during the remaining period of the State Strategy development
- Section 5** Identifies priority issues for State / Local Government and makes recommendations for action, and

The overall objective of our proposals is that by the time the State Strategy is finalised, it comprises a coherent and integrated State / Local Government agenda for action.

## 2. THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### 2.1 Overview

Australia operates three spheres of democratic government, federal, state and local. Local government has authority for the towns, districts, suburbs and clusters of neighbourhoods in which citizens live. For this reason it is often said that local government is the sphere closest to the people.

Local governments are established as separate, semi-autonomous, legal entities in their own right, bound by a state-legislated Local Government Act and a range of other laws. Elected councillors, meeting in accordance with a set of laws and rules, make policy decisions on a wide range of local issues including the provision and maintenance of community facilities and services. These are typically quite diverse ranging from parks to infant health centres to building permits.

There are numerous interfaces between State and Local Government in the delivery of services and the general management of communities in Western Australia. With the State Government's recognition of the need to incorporate sustainable principles into decision-making and operational processes, comes a need to consider the role of major stakeholders in the delivery of this approach. Within a sustainability framework, Local Government is undoubtedly the most significant and influential institutional stakeholder. This section provides examples from the range of Local Government activities that demonstrate both the constraints to, and opportunities for, sustainable progress.

### 2.2 Pressure on Local Government Resources

The role of Local Government in Western Australia has evolved with the changing needs of the communities they represent. This *evolution*, together with the *devolution* of responsibility / functionality through Federal / State Government policy decisions and amendments (e.g. Coastal protection works funding) have significantly increased the pressure on Local Government budgets. The community development and waste sectors provide examples of this pressure.

#### 2.2.1 Community Development

In a Local Government context, many Councils are endeavouring to secure sustainable community development outcomes through a facilitation role. These Councils are acting as the lead co-ordinator in drawing together State and Federal Government agencies and non-government organisations in the community sector to develop holistic approaches to community problems and facilitate local-level solutions. At the local level, Councils are acting as facilitator and endeavouring to get agencies and organisations together to identify issues, strategies, responsibilities, resources and to evaluate outcomes.

This is an appropriate role for Local Government. It does however require the co-operation, participation and commitment by State Government agencies to pursue identified outcomes and commit the required expertise and/or resources. Local Governments, particularly in rural areas, are playing an increasing role in the provision of basic human needs such as education, health, and law and order. While local level solutions may be appropriate, these areas of responsibility sit firmly with the State Government and must be adequately resourced by the State Government. Access to quality education and health services is paramount to the sustainability of rural communities.

Recognition is needed of the role and investment of Local Governments in the various aspects of community development/community services. Local Governments play a significant role in the provision of community infrastructure such as libraries, sport and recreation facilities, youth facilities, emergency accommodation, cultural facilities, community centres, senior citizens centres, infant health clinics, halls, parks and gardens, ovals, etc. Local Governments also provide services and programs either through these facilities or in partnership with other organisations – festivals, fairs, sporting programs, recreation and leisure programs, youth outreach services, immunisation programs, community connections and networks, books on wheels, meals on wheels, respite care, scholarships for music, arts, youth, environment, etc. (As an indication in 1990 a study found that Local Government owned \$2.5 billion in sport and recreation infrastructure – this is only one area of community infrastructure provided by Councils throughout Western Australia).

Sustainable community infrastructure requires effective community needs analysis, strategic planning, usage rates, resource sharing where appropriate, and resourcing of ongoing maintenance and operational costs. Development of community infrastructure at the Federal and State Government level is often politically motivated and when the initial capital costs have been resourced, the ongoing maintenance and operational costs are transferred to often unwilling Local Governments.

There is a need to clearly define the role and responsibilities of the three spheres of Government for community consultation, needs analysis and community planning in partnership with the non-government community sector to avoid duplication, identify clear strategic directions and maximise the use of scarce resources in supporting individuals and families and strengthening the capacity of communities.

### 2.2.2 *Waste & Recycling*

Under the Health Act Local Government is responsible for the collection and disposal of municipal waste. Over the years, Local Government has greatly expanded on this responsibility to provide a wide range of services to residents for the management of their waste. Local Governments have pioneered the move from traditional waste collection and “dumping” to a more environmentally sound and socially acceptable process. In recognising the value of waste, Local Governments are also leading the move to fully integrated resource recovery systems that are developed in close consultation with communities to ensure a long term sustainable outcome.

Local Governments offer a range of services far beyond their legislative requirements.

- Kerbside containerised recycling services;
- Bulk verge collections (of varying frequency) for both hard waste and greenwaste;
- Drop-off points for householders and commercial operators;
- Household hazardous waste collection and storage;
- Environmental and waste management / recycling education.

Waste management is an area of very strong regional cooperation between Local Governments. The Eastern, Southern, Western, South Eastern, Mandurah and Geraldton-Greenough Regional Councils all have waste management as a major component of their core business. In many cases, it is these Regional Councils who are leading the process in moving from traditional landfill practises to sustainable Integrated Resource Recovery Systems. Such a process embraces the principles of community consultation and engagement to achieve a socially and environmentally desirable outcome.

The failure of the State Government to take responsibility for hazardous waste in the past has resulted in both environmentally and socially undesirable outcomes. Local Governments have been collecting and storing household hazardous waste without the State providing suitable management or disposal options.

To support the activities of Local Government and other waste management service providers, the State Government must develop a definitive long-term strategic plan. A broad reaching public education program must be derived from such a plan. This lack of strategic direction has resulted in a somewhat uncoordinated approach to waste management and an unfair burden on Local Government.

## 2.3 *Important State / Local Government Interfaces*

There are a myriad of connection points between State and Local Government. The following areas, which are highly relevant to the State Sustainability Strategy, are examples of this interaction.

### 2.3.1 *Planning*

Planning processes in Western Australia are administered at three levels:

- Minister of Planning & Infrastructure
- Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC)
- Local Governments

Local Government is represented on the WAPC and many of its committees.

### Planning Policies

Planning policies are made both by the WAPC and local governments. These (non-statutory) documents provide guidance on planning, land use and development. Local Government can develop local policy as long as it is consistent with WAPC policy (eg the Residential Planning Codes (R Codes)).

### Structure Plans

*Regional Structure Plans* (plans providing a broad framework for planning at a regional level) are adopted by the WAPC in consultation with Local Governments.

*District Structure Plans* (plans detailing the pattern of land use of a region) are prepared and approved by Local Governments in consultation with the Ministry of Planning & Infrastructure (DPI) and other State Agencies.

*Local Structure Plans* (plans providing more specific detail on housing, road layout, physical infrastructure etc) are approved by Local Government and the WAPC.

### Town Planning Schemes

*Region Schemes* (provide statutory mechanisms to control land use) are adopted / amended by the WAPC in consultation with Local Governments. In most cases in the metropolitan area the development control of zoned land has been delegated to Local Government.

*Town Planning Schemes* (control and guide land use and development in a district or town site) are under the control of Local Governments subject to their consistency with any existing Region Scheme.

### Subdivision and Development Approval

*Subdivision* is (generally) the responsibility of the WAPC and involves consultation with Local Government and other relevant State Agencies.

*Development Approval* is the responsibility of Local Government, although if the proposal has regional significance it may be referred to the WAPC.

It can be seen from the above that Local Government is embedded in the planning system in Western Australia. The proposed review of the planning legislation offers an opportunity to further align planning in Western Australia with sustainability objectives.

#### 2.3.2 *Transport*

Transport processes in Western Australia are administered at all three levels of government:

- Commonwealth,
- State (including the Ministers and Cabinet), and
- Local Governments

The Commonwealth is mainly involved in vehicles, national infrastructure, strategic and funding issues. The State government is mainly involved in vehicles, licensing, co-ordination, regional issues, railways, main roads, major projects, planning and user behaviour. Local government is involved in local issues and details within a geographic area. Most activities involve at least two levels of government.

Transport issues vary significantly depending on the geographic area. *Urban issues* are generally congestion, pollution, road safety and community impacts. *Rural issues* generally include improvement to the good rural road network, road safety and freight efficiency (including rail). Air services, basic levels of accessibility (including reliable roads) and freight efficiency are most significant in *remote areas*, together with road safety and accessibility to Aboriginal communities.

Local government is involved in all of the various processes that determine Transport outcomes and there is continual dialogue between all levels of government on all these issues. These include many Steering Committees, Advisory Committees and Working Groups, plus Regional Road Groups, WAPC Committees, etc. Many transport issues are developed in consultation with other agencies. For instance road safety issues are developed in conjunction with Police, Health, and other government agencies.

### Transport Policies

Transport policies are made both by the State and local governments, but are often relatively informal or relate to specific issues of detail (eg driveway crossovers). The most well organised policies have been developed in conjunction, and integrated with land use planning policies through the WA Planning Commission (on which Local Government is represented). Many local governments have policies relating to local transport and accessibility in urban areas.

### Transport Plans

Regional transport plans are generally developed in conjunction with the regional land use plan or the structure plan. These are refined in the subsequent district and local structure plans (see planning policies). Some aspects are included in regional or local planning schemes.

### Infrastructure Planning and Delivery

Planning for individual routes and design for specific projects is normally done by the agency that will ultimately own the infrastructure, in conjunction with other levels of government. For instance ports, main roads and railways are the responsibility of State government and local government is a key participant in their development. Local roads and airstrips are mainly the responsibility of local government with participation from the State. Regional roads are planned by the State, but constructed for local government. Private ports, airstrips and railways are mainly controlled by the State, but owned and operated privately.

Road network planning at the metropolitan and regional/rural levels is also facilitated through the nine Regional Road Groups comprising membership of Local Government elected members/officers and supported by Main Roads WA in each region.

These Regional Road Groups are responsible for considering road project proposals of a regional nature, as developed and submitted by Member Local Governments and prioritisation based on an objective framework referred to as Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA). Regional Road Groups have the capacity to tailor MCAs to suit their particular requirements and circumstances – however, all MCAs contain economic, social and environmental elements against which road projects must be assessed and prioritised.

Regional Road Group recommendations made in respect to road project proposals are then conveyed to the State Road Funds to Local Government Advisory Committee for assessment, approval and allocation of appropriate funding.

Application of criteria for prioritisation of regionally significant roads project proposals throughout Western Australia has been assisted through development and implementation of the Functional Roads Hierarchy.

### Other Activities

Funding for transport originates from a variety of tied and untied sources that generally include some controls. Local government may administer funds provided by the State or Commonwealth for specific purposes or for specific agreed projects.

Standards for transport infrastructure and systems exist at all three levels of government, and privately.

Local governments may be involved in a diverse range of other activities including:

- community bus services,
- supporting interest groups (such as walking groups, or bicycle user groups),
- providing information and encouragement (such as TravelSmart).

It can be seen from the above that Local Government is a key participant in transport activities in Western Australia.



### 3. SUSTAINABILITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### 3.1 The International and National Context

##### 3.1.1 *Agenda 21*

Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was adopted by more than 178 Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992. Agenda 21 is described by the UN as:

a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment.

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) was created in December 1992 to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED, to monitor and report on implementation of the agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels. It was agreed that a five year review of Earth Summit progress would be made in 1997 by the United Nations General Assembly meeting in special session.

The 55th General Assembly session decided in December 2000 that the CSD would serve as the central organizing body for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

##### 3/1/2 *Australia's Response to Agenda 21*

The National Strategy on Ecologically Sustainable Development (NSED) was finalised in 1992 after extensive consultation with all levels of government, business, industry, academia, voluntary conservation organisations, community-based groups and individuals.

Since 1992 the Commonwealth Government has initiated a comprehensive range of strategies and policies to implement the NSED. These include the:

- Natural Heritage Trust
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG) and Water Reform
- COAG Salinity and Water Quality Action Plan
- National Strategy for the Conservation of Australia's Biological Diversity
- National Greenhouse Strategy
- National Oceans Policy, and
- Regional Forest Agreements

Sustainable development principles have been placed at the centre of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Section 516A requires Commonwealth agencies to submit annual ESD performance reports.

##### 3.1.3 *Commonwealth, State/Territory & Local Government Interaction*

At the national level, under the banner of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), work is undertaken within the context of the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment and the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Heads of Agreement. These Agreements establish arrangements by which Commonwealth, State/Territory and Local Governments interact on environmental matters.

The Commonwealth has established links with both State/Territory and Local Government. Environment Australia administers the Environment Resource Officer Scheme that funds a dedicated officer in the peak Local Government organisation in each of the States and Northern Territory, and a national officer. Environment Australia also promotes Local Agenda 21 initiatives that have links to all levels of government, industry, business and the broader community.

##### 3.1.4 *Australian Local Government Response to Agenda 21*

Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 (see Appendix 3-1) specifically highlighted the important role of local authorities in driving the sustainable development agenda, and set the course for action. This initiative has become known as

Local Agenda 21 (LA21) and in the view of many, has led national and provincial level governments worldwide in advancing the cause of sustainability.

At the international conference Pathways to Sustainability in June 1997 councils from around Australia endorsed the so-called Newcastle Declaration, which re-affirmed the commitment of local government to Agenda 21. In Adelaide in March this year, at the International Local Agenda 21 Conference, Sustaining Our Communities, Local Government again re-stated their support (see Appendix 3-2) and made the following commitments to action by continuing the implementation of Agenda 21 via:

- Local governments and communities
- Partnerships with non-government organisations, business and the education sector
- Partnerships with National, State and Territory governments

According to a recent international survey of local government <sup>(1)</sup> some 6,416 local authorities in 113 countries have either made a formal commitment to Local Agenda 21 or are actively undertaking the process. A recent survey by Environs Australia indicates that by the end of 2000 over 70 Councils in Australia were either starting or had developed a Local Agenda 21 programme.

### 3.2 Local Government Sustainability Activities in Western Australia

Local Government is responsible for planning, constructing, operating, maintaining and regulating economic, social and environmental infrastructure, overseeing planning and development processes, setting local environmental policies and assisting in implementing national, State and regional environmental policies. Agenda 21 recognises that many solutions have their roots in Local Government, due to Local Governments range of responsibilities and because they are closest to the community. As the increasing global recognition of the ability for Local Government to effect positive environmental, social and economic outcomes continues, so too do the expectations for Local Governments to engage/ increase their sustainability activities.

In an attempt to keep pace with expectations and devolved responsibilities, the Association, as the peak body for Local Government in WA has a key role in coordinating, facilitating, training / development and providing advice on Local Government activities that support sustainability

The Association's Environment Team of six staff provides information and support on sustainability and environment to Local Government. Generally the team:

- Coordinates Local Government policy input into State and Commonwealth sustainability and environmental legislation, policies and strategies.
- Communicates State and Commonwealth sustainability and environmental policies and programs to Local Government
- Provides sustainability and environmental advice to member Councils.
- Provides policy direction to the Executive Committee of the Association.
- Facilitates information and advice through Environment Exchange Forums and quarterly newsletter Local Government Sustainability News.

The Association's Environment Team works in the following broadly defined areas:

- Sustainable Development and Local Agenda 21
- Natural Resource Management and Salinity
- Biodiversity Conservation (Native Vegetation Management)
- Greenhouse Policy including cities for climate protection.
- Environmental Management and Planning (including Water Resource Management and Coastal Management)

The following sections examine some of the projects / ideas that the Association, and individual councils, have adopted to incorporate sustainability principles into local government thinking and action. In particular, the examples provided outline what the Association's environment team has already achieved towards sustainability through their support of LA 21, Biodiversity, Natural Resource Management, Greenhouse Policy and Environmental Management.

### 3.2.1 Local Agenda 21

The Association has had the lead role in providing information on and promoting Local Agenda 21 with Councils, primarily through the Environment Resource Officer program. Funding for this program is the result of a partnership with Environment Australia. Administration of Local Agenda 21 activity has been delivered through the environment portfolio as part of the overarching policy division.

To date, 15 Western Australian Local Governments have formally committed to a Local Agenda 21 process including the Cities of Fremantle, Armadale, Mandurah, Nedlands, Subiaco, Stirling, Joondalup and Cockburn, the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale and the Town of Cottesloe. Many more Councils have begun to examine their operations within a Local Agenda 21 framework or are progressing toward the sustainable management of their operations without having formally committed to a Local Agenda 21 process.

#### **CASE STUDY: The Sustainable Development Advisory Group**

The Sustainable Development Advisory Group (formerly the Local Agenda 21 Advisory Group) was established in 1997.

##### Objectives

- Secure widespread understanding of, and commitment to sustainability principles throughout Local Government in WA.
- Provision of practical support for assisting Local Government to introduce, develop, promote and measure sustainable development.
- Financial and political commitment from State and Commonwealth Government to assist Local Government in the planning and implementation of sustainable development.

##### What Has SDAG Achieved?

In conjunction with the Environment Resource Officer, SDAG has:

- Promoted sustainable development through existing forums, such as Local Government Week.
- Has developed and published the Local Agenda 21 Report Card, a collection of case studies of WA Councils undertaking Local Agenda 21.
- Pursues partnerships by inviting a guest speaker from sustainability related field to each meeting, and other forums.
- Has developed training workshops for sustainability and Local Agenda 21.

A progress report known as the Local Agenda 21 Report Card was prepared in June 2000. This document provides Case Studies on the activities being undertaken by Western Australia's Local Agenda 21 Councils, and has been updated for this submission. These Case Studies are set out in Appendix 3-3. As Local Agenda 21 is an over-arching initiative, other sustainability related programmes such as Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) are also referred to in these Case Studies.

The Association:

- Coordinates the Sustainable Development Advisory Group.
- Provides information and advice to Councils undertaking Local Agenda 21 and ESD.
- With funding from the Commonwealth, provides training sessions and information forums.

### 3.2.2 Natural Resource Management / Salinity

In Western Australia, natural resource management (NRM) generally refers to the ecologically sustainable management of the land, water and biodiversity resources of the State for the benefit of existing and future generations, and for the maintenance of the life support capability of the biosphere. It does not include mineral or marine resources <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Association is:

- Developing WA Local Government position on Natural Resource Management in light of future Commonwealth and State Government funding arrangements, and representing Local Government interests.
- Assisting the Australian Local Government Association engage with the Commonwealth Government on NRM issues.
- Building relationships with Regional NRM Groups.

- Local Government representation on key State Government bodies such as the State Salinity Council and Soil and Land Conservation Council.
- Developed Local Government submission to State Salinity Taskforce.
- Educating Local Government through facilitation of seminars, workshops and training programs.

### 3.2.3 Native Vegetation Management and Biodiversity Conservation

Biodiversity is the different plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part. Biodiversity conservation refers to human capacity to leave unaltered or sustainably manage our vast variety of life (or biological diversity) <sup>(3)</sup>. With its existing infrastructure, links with the community, proximity to small pockets of remnant vegetation and roadside vegetation management responsibilities, Local Government is well placed to assist in the delivery of biodiversity conservation.

Other existing initiatives involving Local Government include:

#### **CASE STUDY: Perth Biodiversity Project**

Phase one of the Perth Biodiversity Project (PBP) is a three-year, \$3 million project funded by the Natural Heritage Trust, the Department for Planning and Infrastructure and Local Governments in the Perth Metropolitan Region.

##### Objectives

The PBP aims to conserve biodiversity and facilitate on-ground activities that improve the linkages between, and the quality of, locally significant bush land areas in the Perth Metropolitan Region. Project partners are currently working together, towards:

- Addressing the lack of appropriate data for defining and managing biodiversity at the Local Government level.
- Ensuring a consistent approach to the development and implementation of local biodiversity plans and;
- Facilitating the implementation of strategic on-ground works in locally significant bush land sites throughout the metropolitan region.

##### What Will Be Achieved?

In this, the first year of the PBP Funding Program, \$210,000 will be directed to councils and associated community groups. The funds will be used to implement planned on-ground biodiversity actions to help meet PBP goals. Regional partnerships and plans to conserve biodiversity and facilitate on-ground activities will be developed. Both the quality of locally significant bush land areas in the Perth Metropolitan Region, and the linkages between them will be improved.

Bush Forever  
WA Ministry of Planning

Bush Forever aims to protect a target figure of at least 10 per cent of the 26 original vegetation complexes within the Swan Coastal Plain portion of metropolitan Perth, and to conserve threatened ecological communities

Bush Plan  
WA Dept  
Environmental  
Protection

A plan to protect and manage regionally significant bushland in the Perth Metropolitan area.

The Association is:

- Coordinating and hosting of the Perth Biodiversity Project.
- With funding from the Commonwealth, delivered training workshops in regional areas on Local Government's role as a native vegetation manager (see case study on beyond Roads, Rates & Rubbish workshop series).
- Promoting and implementing the National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy.
- Local Government representation on key State Government bodies such as the Roadside Conservation Committee.

### 3.2.4 Energy Efficiency & Greenhouse Gases

Cities for Climate Protection™ (CCP™) is an international trade-marked program of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) delivered in collaboration with the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO). CCP™ Australia is a programme that assists local governments and their communities reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Since the formal establishment of the program in September 1998, there has been an overwhelming response by councils. As at 1 January 2002 there were 144 local governments, representing 59.7% of Australia's population, that are committed to achieving sustainable, long-term reductions in their greenhouse gas emissions through their participation in CCP™ Australia.

## CASE STUDY: Beyond Roads, Rates & Rubbish

The Association, in conjunction with the Soil and Land Conservation Council, the Bushcare Network and Environs Australia presented the Beyond Roads, Rates and Rubbish: Local Government's role as a native vegetation manager workshop series throughout WA.

The workshops were held in two series, in Perth and Donnybrook (South West Region) in November 2000 and in Northam (Central Wheatbelt Region), Moora (Northern Agricultural Region) and Mt Barker (South Coast Region) in August 2001. For both series, the keynote speakers were Mayor Mike Berwick, Douglas Shire Council, Queensland, and author of the National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy and Carl Binning, CSIRO, author of the Beyond Roads, Rates & Rubbish series of research papers.

### Objectives

The aim of the workshops was to encourage local government decision-makers and practitioners to further enhance their knowledge and understanding of native vegetation management and natural resource management.

### What Has Been Achieved?

The workshops were extremely successful in exploring and advancing Local Government involvement in native vegetation management and natural resource management. Over 200 participants took part in the five workshops.

### Outcomes include:

- Preparation of a CD-rom of workshop proceedings sent to all participants, and soon to be available on the Association website;
- The workshops provided an important networking opportunity, and it is likely that important strategic partnerships were developed through face to face meetings;
- Through evaluation forms, the Association gained comprehensive feedback on further training requirements of Local Government in this area.

It is likely also that the workshops will eventually result in the on-ground implementation of the tools and techniques discussed at the workshops, however this evaluation has not taken place to date.

## CASE STUDY: CCP™ Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council

Perth's Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council (EMRC) is a six-member group undertaking a regional approach to the CCP™ Australia program. EMRC includes the councils of the Town of Bassendean, City of Bayswater, City of Belmont, Shire of Kalamunda, Shire of Mundaring and the City of Swan, covering approximately one-third of the Perth metropolitan area. The regional approach has resulted in a number of advantages including the sharing of resources, greater efficiencies and better outcomes due to collective learning experiences. Given the regional significance to the issue of greenhouse gas emissions, EMRC was also successful in attracting funding to employ two dedicated officers through the Milestone 1 Assistance Program fund. During 2001, the group completed the requirements for Milestone 1 and completed the corporate aspects for Milestones 2 and 3. In the coming year, EMRC will complete the community aspects for Milestones 2 and 3. Among the year's achievements were forming green-energy teams throughout the councils to help implement the action program, hosting the Green Energy Learning Program module, delivered by the Australian Municipal Energy Improvement Facility and holding educational seminars in the Perth area to assist councils to learn new technologies and energy efficiencies for local government. With the deregulation of Western Australia's power industry, EMRC is investigating the use of Green Power, which is estimated to reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 4,100 tonnes from current 2001 levels.

On joining the CCP™ program, councils commit to achieving five milestones by passing a council resolution. ICLEI supports councils to achieve these milestones and works with them to develop a strategic agenda to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001 67% of the State's population live in CCP™ council areas (see Appendix 3-4). To assist councils move through the milestone framework, the AGO has developed a range of assistance packages, known as Greenhouse Action Modules. The modules are designed to help CCP™ councils to implement effective greenhouse gas reduction activities in key areas. Limited funding support from the AGO is available for the CCP™ programme.

CCP in Perth is supported by the Energy Management Advisory Service (EMAS), which provides advice to local governments on how to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. EMAS is managed through Institute of Sustainability and Technology Policy at Murdoch University.

Other existing greenhouse initiatives involving Local Government are:

#### **CASE STUDY: Street Lighting Working Group**

The WA Councils involved in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) program, in seeking to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, found that street lighting emerged as the largest component of energy usage and therefore source of greenhouse gas emissions for Councils.

##### Objectives

In Western Australia, Local Governments pay the cost of street lighting, but it is provided through contractual arrangements with Western Power. A small working group of Local Government lighting engineers, environment officers and elected members was established, primarily to negotiate more energy efficient street lighting alternatives with Western Power.

##### Progress

Progress has been made in discussions with Western Power, and a discussion paper on Street lighting in Western Australia is being produced.

Greenpower	a national accreditation program for renewable energy products through joint collaboration by participating State Government agencies in NSW, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and ACT.
Cool Communities	Cool Communities is an AGO project providing information, support and financial assistance to help communities undertake actions to achieve a reduction of household greenhouse pollution.
Travelsmart	a community-based program of the Western Australian Dept of Planning and Infrastructure that encourages people to use alternatives to travelling in their private car.

The Association coordinates several greenhouse action initiatives:

- Coordination of Greenhouse Working Group and Street Lighting Working Group.
- Local Government representation on WA Greenhouse Council.
- Providing information and advice on the Cities for Climate Protection Program.
- Promotion of energy efficiency and cleaner production initiatives.
- Street lighting working group / discussion paper.
- Promoting use of LPG cars in Council vehicle fleets.

### 3.2.5 Waste Management

Local Governments have pioneered the move from traditional waste collection and “dumping” to a more environmentally sound and socially acceptable process. In Western Australia, residents are provided with a range of options for the management of their waste; from kerbside recycling services and bulk verge collections to special greenwaste recycling services and hazardous waste collection days. In recognising the value of waste, Local Governments are also leading the move to fully Integrated Resource recovery systems that are developed in close consultation with communities to ensure a long term sustainable outcome.

The Association established the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC), a committee of the Local Government Association that has delegated authority to represent the Association on all issues relating to waste management. MWAC is actively involved in:

- The Statewide coordination of Local Government Waste Management and Recycling including administration of the Resource Recovery Rebate Scheme.
- The review of waste management legislation specifically addressing the opportunities and implications for Local Government.
- Production of Integrated Resource Recovery techniques incorporating investigations into Secondary Resource Recovery technologies.

#### CASE STUDY: Regional Resource Recovery Project

The South Metropolitan Regional Council is a statutory local government authority established by 7 local Councils in the southern part of metropolitan Perth. It is responsible for developing environmentally sustainable waste management solutions for the communities of Canning, Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Kwinana, Melville and Rockingham.

SMRC has implemented a regional waste management strategy in the form of a regional resource recovery cycle that dramatically reduces household material sent to landfill by combining world-leading technology with a simple, community-friendly collection system. At the core of this cycle lies the Regional Resource Recovery Centre that recovers household waste as a valuable resource for ultimate reuse by the community.

All household waste, once collected, is taken to the RRRC for recovery and processing which, as well as having huge environmental benefits, will also result in substantial increases in recovered resources available for community re-use. The integrated collection system provides each household with a comprehensive disposal service comprising:

- Weekly collection of a 240 litre mobile bin for the disposal of general household waste including food and small green waste,
- Fortnightly collection of a 240 litre mobile bin for the disposal of co-mingled dry recyclables,
- Three verge-side collections each year of large green waste items such as tree prunings and branches, and,
- An annual bulk waste collection.

#### CASE STUDY: Coastal Management Advisory Group

The Coastal Management Advisory Group was established during the development of the 1995 Coastal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU sets out the tripartite cooperative arrangements among all three spheres of Government for involvement in the Coasts and Clean Seas Programs. The Group is open to all coastal Local Governments and has both elected member and officer representation.

##### Objectives of CMAG

- To facilitate outcomes to strategic policy initiatives for sustainable coastal management;
- To be a forum for structured information exchange through the Association to all coastal Local Governments on funding and policy;
- To support education, training and funding opportunities for coastal communities, and
- To promote coastal conservation and integrated catchment management.

##### Outcomes for 2001:

- Identifying and prioritising critical coastal management issues and provide a forum for discussion;
- Reviewing and coordinating a response on key State Coastal Policy issues;
- Identifying a framework for Local Government to communicate with organisations and community groups on coastal management issues; and,
- Developing a position on State coastal institutional arrangements and advice the Association.

- Development of improved communication channels for waste management information to all levels of Government, industry and the community.

### 3.2.6 *Environmental Management and Planning*

Environmental Management refers to the use, development and conservation of our biophysical surroundings and the ecological systems contained therein <sup>(4)</sup>.

The Association:

- Convenes and manages the Coastal Management Advisory Group.
- Houses the Regional Coastal Facilitator, which is funded through Council contributions.
- Developing initiatives and alliances in Urban Storm water management.
- Promotion and development of opportunities for reclaimed water usage.
- Floodplain management / education and definition of roles and responsibilities.

### 3.2.7 *Drivers and Barriers for Sustainability*

The push for the Association to consider sustainability issues arose in the main from the needs of their members – the local councils of Western Australia. In turn, these needs are reflective of a community that is increasingly educated on the sustainability possibilities that exist.

One of the key components to the Association's activities is to provide leadership and direction. While many Councils are now actively involved with issues of sustainability, the Association recognizes that improvements can be made both in the number of Councils with a sustainability agenda and the scope of the sustainability agenda of some Councils.

A lack of resources has been the major difficulty encountered by the Association. Until the Perth Biodiversity Project commenced, which accounts for three of the Associations environmental team, three officers were responsible for engaging 144 Councils on most of the environmental issues current in the State and Commonwealth.

Most of the Councils that have adopted sustainability into their operations have done so because of the drive of one or two individuals within the Council. Generally the drive is most effective when it comes from elected members or senior officers, however there are examples of staff members having a significant impact on Council activities in these areas.

Local Government in Australia is the leading tier of Government in terms of incorporating sustainability principles into their operations. Western Australia is no exception. However, there is no doubt that increased engagement in the sustainability agenda by the Commonwealth and State Governments could further promote the adoption of sustainability practices by Local Governments.

The Commonwealth Government provides the Association with part funding for the Environment Resource officer position and have provided funding for the association to arrange Local Agenda 21 training for Councils. There are few examples however, of assistance or support being made available to individual Councils for the adoption of sustainability practices. The Association's commitment to assisting Councils to adopt sustainability practices will ultimately benefit communities, the environment and the economic viability of local councils.

## REFERENCES

1. International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives "2<sup>nd</sup> Local Agenda 21 Survey", Report to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, Feb 2002
2. Western Australian Government framework to assist in achieving sustainable natural resource management
3. Berwick, M. "National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy", ALGA, Canberra, 1999.
4. Dore, J & Woodhill, J. Sustainable Regional Development: Final Report, Panther, Canberra, 1999.



## 4. TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED STATE STRATEGY

### 4.1 The Concept of an Integrated Strategy

With the new State Government's commitment to developing partnerships and cooperative working relationships, a Partnerships Steering Committee has been formed between Local Government and key State Government agencies. The broad objective of the Committee is to improve cooperation between State and Local Government to enhance the social, economic and environmental health of Western Australia through good will, consultation, communication, participation and collaboration at both strategic and project levels. Specific outcomes sought from the partnerships include sustainability objectives.

Section 3 of this Submission demonstrates the progress of Local Government in advancing sustainability in Western Australia. As indicated in Section 2 there are many interfaces between State and Local Government in the development of policy, day-to-day processes and delivery of services to the community. The Association believes that there is overwhelming logic in combining (existing and planned) Local Government and (prospective) State initiatives into an integrated State Sustainability Strategy. Indeed it is difficult to envisage an effective and comprehensive State Sustainability Strategy that does not incorporate local government in an integrated manner. Conceptually therefore the Strategy would comprise:

- Actions within the ambit of the State Government
- Actions within the ambit of Local Government
- Actions involving State and Local Government acting in unison

The second of these then effectively becomes a subset of the overall Strategy, and the third the focus of a Partnership Agreement between State and Local Government. The Association sees many potential benefits in such an integrated approach.

#### 4.1.1 *Alignment of Existing Sustainability Programmes*

As noted in Section 3, many Local Governments are already engaged in the Local Agenda 21 process. To a greater or lesser extent therefore Local Government has commenced a journey down the path of integrating social, environmental and economic thinking into their operations. While the Association can play a coordinating role within Western Australia, the alignment of these existing programmes with the new State Strategy will both assist these programmes, and enable the State Strategy to gain an immediate foothold across the State through the local activists.

#### 4.1.2 *Increased Reach*

The reach of the State Strategy will be much more significant if Local Governments are incorporated in its development and implementation. There are 144 Councils in Western Australia, employing thousands of people who are face to face with their local communities. The potential therefore, of communicating the Strategy and its progress to the public, and securing their participation will be greatly increased, as will be the feedback loop on the effectiveness of the initiatives. This proximity to the community is also critical to improved consultation / participation processes, a guiding principle of sustainability.

#### 4.1.3 *Common Approaches*

An integrated approach also offers the opportunity for the State and Local Government to adopt a common set of policies, processes and tools with which to implement the Strategy. As discussed in Section 5, the critically important task of mainstreaming Sustainability will involve addressing issues relating to:

- Institutional arrangements
- Organisational culture
- Decision making processes
- Sustainability tools

These are all issues relevant to both State Agencies and Local Government, and hence the opportunity to adopt common approaches exists within an integrated Strategy.

#### 4.1.4 *Regional Governance*

Many researchers and practitioners in the Sustainability field (including Professor Newman) believe that a focus on regions is the key to unlocking many of the constraints to sustainable human settlements. The Local Government system already contains regional councils and many of these (such as Eastern Metropolitan Regional Council and the Rainbow Coast Region) are active in Local Agenda 21 and associated matters. The North East Wheatbelt Region of Councils (NEWROC) have developed an NRM strategy that is considered a blueprint for action elsewhere.

The State also has regional development commissions operating across the State. These commissions are also under the umbrella of the same State Agency as Local Government (ie Department of Local Government and Regional Development). It is essential that the economic development agendas of the Department and these commissions are meaningfully incorporated into the Strategy, if it is to be successful.

An integrated Strategy and a meaningful partnership between State and Local Government offers the best opportunity to explore the potential shape and benefits of regionally based action.

#### 4.2 *A Common Sustainability Framework for State / Local Government*

The Sustainability Strategy will ultimately involve action by, and interaction between, the various levels of Government:

- Executive Government
- State Agencies
- Local Government

It is proposed that the component of the Strategy involving interaction between State and Local Government be enunciated as a Common Sustainability Framework. This Framework would set the higher level goals, objectives and performance indicators for the integrated Strategy, and set the direction for the specific ongoing programmes / action plans related to the Strategy.

##### 4.2.1 *Goal and Objectives of the Sustainability Framework*

The proposed Goal of the Framework is:

State and Local Government acting in unison to realise a sustainable future for the Western Australian community

Proposed Objectives are set out below:

##### *Integrated State / Local Govt approaches to Sustainability*

This objective can only be met by ongoing communication and coordination between State and Local Government. It is proposed that the forum for this process is a high level Advisory Council (or similar) comprising senior officers from the State and Local Government sectors.

##### *Institutional Accountability for Sustainability*

This objective relates to mainstreaming sustainability within State and Local Government organisations. The Association envisages this process involving:

- the review of legislation,
- the review of organisations' vision, mission, strategic plans and resources
- the development of relevant performance indicators
- factors addressing the culture of organisations
- sustainability awareness and training for personnel

### *Alignment of State and Local Government Policy / Processes with Sustainability Principles*

Under this objective the Association envisages the development and implementation of various programmes of activity related to Planning, Transport, Natural Resource Management etc. These activities will need to be prioritised on a continuous basis.

### *Common State / LG Sustainability methodologies & resources*

There is a major opportunity to develop common approaches to aid State and Local Government officers improve sustainability outcomes. Under this objective the Association envisages that common processes and tools would be developed and implemented in State and Local Government organisations. Some examples are:

- Green procurement guidelines and databases
- Life-cycle assessment procedures
- Sustainability Assessments for programmes, projects and developments
- Scenario Planning guidelines
- Uniform Case Study formats

A Draft Common Sustainability Framework, which incorporates these objectives and the priority issues set out in Section 5, is included in Appendix 4-1.

#### *4.2.2 The Sustainability Partnership*

A Partnership between State and Local Government has been previously proposed as the vehicle for advancing the sustainability objectives of both parties. Such a partnership is even more relevant in the context of the integrated approach proposed in this Submission, and is seen by the Association as a critical component of a successful State Strategy.

However until the overall State Strategy is developed, and the institutional arrangements underpinning it within the State Government are determined, the Association feel it is most appropriate at this time to establish only the Heads of Agreement for the Partnership. It is proposed that this instrument will establish the:

- Aims and Objectives of the Partnership
- Broad principles of its operations
- Interim arrangements during the remaining phase of the State Strategy development

A Draft Heads of Agreement for the proposed Partnership is included in Appendix 4-2. It is envisaged that the final Agreement will be finalised and signed as a component of the State Strategy, perhaps as one element of the proposed overall State – Local Government Partnership.

### *Aim*

To develop and implement a Common Sustainability Framework between the State Government of Western Australia and Western Australian Local Governments, that efficiently and effectively advances sustainability in Western Australia.

### *Objectives*

- To develop a communication framework between Local Government and relevant State Government Departments that facilitates the implementation of respective sustainability objectives
- To identify State and Local Government policies, legislation and activities that assist or inhibit the achievement of sustainability in Western Australia;
- To develop State and Local Government policies, legislation or activities that facilitate sustainability;
- Where appropriate, State Government to provide resources to Local Government to assist in the planning and implementation of sustainability; and
- For Local Government to assist in the development of an integrated State Sustainability Strategy.

### *Principles of Operation*

State Government will, as part of the State Sustainability Strategy, make various institutional arrangements to manage and coordinate the Sustainability agenda. Within these arrangements it is envisaged that a Local Government Sustainability Advisory Council (LGSAC) will be established in order to manage the State / Local Government Partnership. Such a body will have membership derived from:

- The lead State Government body for Sustainability
- The Association (representing Local Government)
- Relevant State Government Agencies

State Government will fund a Local Government Sustainability Officer to assist in facilitating the activities of the LGSAC.

### *Interim Arrangements*

It is proposed that until the Strategy is announced and all institutional arrangements are clarified, that a Local Government Sustainability Roundtable is established with the following objectives:

- to progress the recommendations set out in this Submission with a view to achieving the proposed objective of an Integrated State Strategy,
- to establish Working Groups in each of the areas described in 3.3.1 above,
- to finalise the Sustainability Partnership Agreement, including scope, membership etc

It is envisaged that the Roundtable will have membership from the Association and the Sustainability Policy Unit (SPU) and will interface with all other SPU Working Groups relevant to the Local Government Sustainability agenda.

In order to ensure that the Roundtable contributes effectively to the State Strategy development and the establishment of the Partnership, it is recommended that funding (equivalent to the employment costs of the future Local Government Sustainability Officer) is made available by the State to provide the resources necessary, either by way of a short-term appointment or consultancy support.

## **4.3 Agenda to Develop and Operationalise an Integrated State Strategy**

The following summarises the proposals set out above in the context of required actions to progress the proposals set out in this submission.

### *4.3.1 Establishment of Roundtable*

It is recommended that discussions are held with the intent of immediately establishing the Local Government Sustainability Roundtable. The issues to be resolved are:

- Membership of the Roundtable from both the SPU and the Association
- Resources for an interim Local Government Sustainability Officer
- Modus Operandi for the Roundtable and its Working Groups

### *4.3.2 Roundtable Activities*

It is recommended that this submission, and the response to it from SPU, form the basis for establishing the activities of the Roundtable. The Association envisages these will include the following:

### *The Sustainability Framework*

Section 4.2 above proposes the development of a Common Sustainability Framework as the foundation of the Partnership. The Roundtable will be responsible for the further development of this Framework as a core component of the State Sustainability Strategy.

Section 5 of this submission set out the Association's sustainability priorities and potential initiatives to address these. The Roundtable will be responsible for reviewing and refining these priorities with a view to completion of the Framework.

#### *Establishment of Working Groups*

Working Groups will be necessary to progress the initiatives under the Common Framework. This can be achieved by setting up specific working groups under the Roundtable or extending the membership / scope of existing groups working under SPU.

#### *Information / Data*

Further study and information acquisition is required to progress many of the initiatives set out in the Draft Framework. This work will be the responsibility of the Working Groups.

#### *Dialogue*

The Roundtable will facilitate the necessary dialogue with State Agencies to progress the development of the Common Framework and various initiatives.

#### *Immediate Action Programme*

The Association believes there are a number of specific initiatives that can be progressed before the announcement of the State Sustainability Strategy. These include pilot projects (eg a model sustainable urban development) that will achieve the following:

- demonstrate the Government's commitment to action
- provide important feedback before the Strategy is finalised (including from the private sector)
- give the Strategy some momentum when announced

It is recommended that the Roundtable identify and implement such initiatives.

#### *Completion of Partnership Agreement*

It is envisaged that the formal Partnership Agreement is signed as part of the Sustainability Strategy announcement process. The Roundtable will take on the task of preparing the Agreement for consideration by the Association and the State Government.

## 5. Priority issues for State and Local Government

### 5.1 Common Themes

As detailed in Section 3, Local Government is already well advanced in addressing sustainability in the context of Local Government. Some of the issues can be dealt with in a purely local context and some require cooperation and participation with the State and / or Federal Government, or the private sector. This section of the Submission concentrates attention on those issues that are within the control of State Government, either alone or in consultation with others.

The following issues are seen as high priorities rather than an exhaustive list. It is envisaged that the recommendations that follow will set the agenda for the proposed State / Local Government Partnership. Clearly, as the Partnership develops, priorities will change and other issues may take on greater urgency.

### 5.2 Institutional Accountability for Sustainability

#### 5.2.1 Governance (*focussing leadership & resourcing on sustainable practice*)

##### 5.2.1.1 Political leadership / support for Sustainability

Links between the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments need to be strengthened and structures established to facilitate integrated decision-making. A formal partnership needs to be developed to identify opportunities for joint policy, planning and service delivery activities with other spheres of government. The partnership approach would also ensure that those mechanisms are practicable and reflect the specific needs of each government body (such a partnership approach is currently being advocated by the Australian Local Government Association to increase the involvement of Local Government in Natural Resource Management).

#### *Recommendation*

*That the State Government engages the Federal Government and the other States in a dialogue through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) to extend the Sustainability Partnership concept to encompass all levels of Australian Government.*

##### 5.2.1.2 Resources / funding to drive Sustainability

Although Local Government has a responsibility to promote changes that are in the broader community interest, sustainability cannot be seen as a core business objective. Even for those Councils that demonstrate a commitment to adopt such initiatives, there is a general reliance on external funding to initiate these new programs. This source of funding tends to be limited and of a short-term nature and therefore Councils may be reluctant to introduce new programs that are going to lead to ongoing financial commitment. Managing areas of land acquired from State Government agencies for biodiversity conservation or maintaining an incentive scheme once Commonwealth/ State funding ceases are examples with long-term liabilities for Local Government that have future budget implications.

There is an increase in the devolution of responsibility to Local Government, Regional Councils and community organizations. In most cases, this increased responsibility is not supported with additional financial assistance, training or technical support. In addition to its core responsibilities, Local Government is unable to continually accept these new responsibilities, while effectively delivering on its growing existing services without adequate additional resources. The proposed partnership approach for sustainability current being developed between the Association and the State Government is a positive and important initiative in this direction.

#### *Recommendation*

*That the LG Sustainability Roundtable evaluates the resource needs of Local Government in implementation of the State Sustainability Strategy and the State includes in its budgetary allowances, the provision of resources and technical support to assist Local Government meet its sustainability objectives.*

#### 5.2.1.4 Regional Governance

Regional governance provides for a holistic view of management of the economic, social and natural environment without limitations of administrative boundaries. Administrative boundaries to delineate Local Governments do not take into account cross boundary ecological processes such as water catchment issues and wildlife corridors. Unless a holistic approach is taken, these processes may become fragmented with possible conflicting management practices. A regional perspective also facilitates an integrated approach between State Government, Local Government and the community to act in accordance with the regional plan, using common goals.

It is critically important that the State Strategy properly addresses the economic aspects of sustainability. Presently the roles of councils and regional councils are quite separate to that of the Regional Development Commissions (although there are linkages). The operations of the State Development portfolio, although highly relevant, tend to interface with Local Government on a project-by-project basis. Closer cooperation is required to properly integrate economic, social and environmental perspectives in strategic planning and day-to-day activity.

#### *Recommendation*

That the present roles of regional councils, regional development commissions and the State Development portfolio are reviewed by the LG Sustainability Roundtable with a view to establishing closer working arrangements / linkages and developing holistic regional strategies informed by sustainability principles.

#### 5.2.2 *Institutional Arrangements (aligning our institutions to promote sustainability)*

##### 5.2.2.1 Integration in State Government

The division of responsibilities between national, state and local jurisdictions has been recognised as a factor that can work against sustainable decision-making. To foster sustainable decision-making there needs to be reform and a shift to improve integration of institutions, or at least the decision-making within institutions. Government has a leadership role to play and to ensure that mechanisms are in place for all relevant government departments to have a consistent vision, commitment and approach towards the attainment of sustainability, along with clear channels of communication. In Western Australia, restructuring and the combining of natural resource management agencies (such as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Water and Rivers Commission (WRC)) is a positive move towards integrating institutions and establishing a consistency in governance toward sustainability. This integration needs to go further to ensure all agencies are aligned in terms of policy and governance; and decision making moves organizations and thus Western Australia towards a sustainable future.

The Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) has state-wide responsibilities for urban, rural and regional land use planning and land development. The Commission consists of members representing:

- local government (urban and regional)
- the community and professions,
- the minister for Regional Development,
- the infrastructure agencies (Planning & Infrastructure, Transport, Main Roads, Environment, Water and Catchment Protection)

The strategic committees of the Commission include:

- Infrastructure Co-ordinating Committee
- Transport Committee
- Environment and Natural Resources Management Committee

With the exception of representation for the Minister of State Development, the WAPC has the coverage necessary to holistically oversee the introduction of sustainability into the State's administrative agenda. Of all the existing bodies in the State Government, the Association believes the WAPC offers the most logical conduit

for implementation of the State Sustainability Strategy, and for mainstreaming sustainability into the State Government's day-to-day activities.

*Recommendation*

That State Government investigate the potential of utilising the WA Planning Commission (expanded to include the State Development portfolio) and its committees as vehicles for delivery of the State Sustainability Strategy.

#### 5.2.2.2 Legislative Review

For sustainability issues to progress efficiently and effectively within the wider community there is a need for an urgent review of legislation and state government policy, which may be promoting unsustainable practices. The suggestion has been made that a "competition policy" type review relating sustainability issues to statutes and state policies would set a workable baseline that promotes rather than hinders sustainability. For example the (until recently) held policy of Water Corporation to refuse to permit the removal of greywater from sewage in sewered areas has probably stifled the development of market viable greywater disposal systems. Existing standards governing street lighting require review with respect to emerging technologies.

Additionally broader analysis of Acts such as the Environmental Protection Act is also required to determine if legislation is doing enough to promote ESD, whilst being mindful of Commonwealth actions in this regard.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council conduct a review of current legislation with a view to identifying modifications that will promote sustainable practices.

#### 5.2.2.3 Strategic Plans

Although LA21, and sustainability more generally, has developed from an environmental perspective, the Association believes that it must be embedded or *mainstreamed* within organisations in order to achieve meaningful progress. Under the LA21 initiative many councils in Western Australia and elsewhere have incorporated sustainable development principles directly into their Strategic Plans (for example Mandurah's *Sustainable City Plan*).

For the State Sustainability Strategy to succeed, State Government agencies must also mainstream sustainability, and the incorporation of sustainability principles within the Strategic Plans, Vision and Mission Statements of Agencies is one initiative towards this objective. Another is the incorporation of sustainability related *key performance indicators* (kpi's) into the Job Descriptions of CEO's and other officers.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop a strategy to incorporate sustainability principles into state & local government strategic & operational plans and the job descriptions of key officers.

#### 5.2.2.4 Sustainability Reporting

The term *Triple Bottom Line* (TBL) was coined by John Elkington, the author of the book *Cannibals with Forks: The Triple Bottom Line of 21st Century Business*. Elkington's explanation of the term is: "Sustainable development involves the simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, environmental quality and social equity. Companies aiming for sustainability need to perform not against a single, financial bottom line but against the triple bottom line."

There have been a number of international and national initiatives driving and supporting an increased capacity of organisations to report on their non-financial performance. At the Victorian Economic Summit in March this year, for example, environmental sustainability was raised as a key strategy to win continued economic growth. At the end of the Summit, participants adopted a communique listing actions for the future. One of the actions is the development of a triple bottom line strategy for Victoria, which was accepted unanimously.



Internationally, much of the impetus for the development of sustainability reporting is coming from the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which is working on a common framework for sustainability reporting. The GRI <sup>(1)</sup> was formally inaugurated at the United Nations headquarters in New York City on 4 April 2002. The GRI was convened in 1997 by the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The UN event marked the formal launch of GRI as a permanent, independent global institution.

The GRI released guidelines for sustainability reporting in 2000, and a further revision will be released this year. The Association believes that adoption of common sustainability reporting across Government in Western Australia is an achievable and desirable approach.

#### *Recommendation*

That sustainability reporting is introduced into the Government sector and LG Sustainability Roundtable is tasked with review of the GRI Guidelines as the basis for development of reporting guidelines for State and Local Government in Western Australia.

#### 5.2.2.5 Sustainability Indicators

Without indicators there is no measure of progress towards the sustainability goals that will be set by Strategic Plans (or indeed the State Sustainability Strategy). Work is going on all around the world on this subject, and many of the Australian councils that have joined the LA21 initiative are moving to adopt sustainability related indicators.

The development of a core set of indicators for use both by the State and Local Government sectors would be an important component of implementation of the State Strategy.

#### **CASE STUDY: The City of Onkaparinga's Strategic Indicators Project**

The Strategic Indicators Project is a 12 month initiative to develop indicators for measuring progress towards the strategic directions of a local government area. Initiated in 1999 by the City of Onkaparinga with funding from the Local Government Research and Development Scheme, the project aims to develop indicators that:

- can signal whether a community is heading towards or away from its long term goals
- are based on ecologically sustainable development principles (consideration of the social, economic and environmental) and promote sustainable communities, and
- that can add value to strategic planning and promote good governance.

To date, the Project has attracted considerable interest from South Australian Local Governments, with 32 Councils participating in forum and workshop processes to develop the indicators. South Australian Councils are now beginning to apply these strategic indicators, with the City of Onkaparinga planning to report against the strategic directions outlined in its formal document *Creating Our Future* in early 2001. The City of Salisbury is currently finalising its indicators and other councils have begun to utilise the information arising from the Project for both the selection of indicators and the review of their strategic planning framework.

#### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop a strategy to integrate sustainability indicators into state & local reporting systems.

#### 5.2.2.6 Information Flow

Sustainability initiatives at Local Government Level require in many instances a ready supply of accessible and useable information. Often the necessary information is held by State Agencies (eg Power usage information for traffic lights and state facilities for the CCP Program). Local Governments have experienced difficulties in obtaining information for some programmes and often when provided it is in unsuitable formats.

From a planning perspective there are a variety of State agencies involved in the development of land for both public (state facilities) and private (land subdivisions and housing) purposes. There is a need for Local Government and State agencies to work more closely to ensure consideration and the introduction of, sustainability issues with all State agency development. Communication and consultation needs to be improved between the two tiers of Government. Consideration of integrated planning policies and strategies should be seriously considered in this regard. There has been some noted attempts in this area in recent times. The Water

Corporation for example has shown the lead recently with consultation relating to a Sustainability Park proposal in Shenton Park. Transport also recently conducted an integrated planning exercise in relation to Shenton Park transport needs.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council conduct a review of current legislation with a view to identifying modifications that will promote sustainable practices.

*5.2.3 Organisational Culture (developing a sustainability culture)*

The culture of organisations is something that evolves over time and cannot be “engineered” via the State Sustainability Strategy. However it would be a mistake to consider that a sustainability culture will develop within State and Local Government without the appropriate encouragement. Most important is the reinforcement by management of sustainability principles enshrined in an organisation’s *raison d’etre*, Vision and Strategic Plans (as noted above). This objective can be achieved via the normal day-to-day communication channels such as Notice Boards, Intranets, Seminars etc.

Developing a sustainability culture is also dependent on having champions at all levels of the organisation, not just in leadership positions, or environmental sub-groups. Demonstrating progress towards sustainability (via publication of Case Studies etc) can also be very important enlightenment and encouragement for staff.

Encouraging sustainability as a core component of continuous professional development / training for certain staff should also be phased in.

Developing a whole of government sustainability culture is also important. This again can be encouraged via communication between organisations, workshops etc. The Association also believes consideration should be given to the establishment of a regular State Sustainability Conference. Such an event could have several benefits:

- Communication of the Government’s strategy
- Showcasing of sustainable practices
- Awards for achievements

Involvement by the private sector would “bring together” sustainability activists across the public / private divide and educate each sector about the activities and priorities of the other.

*Recommendation*

That the State Sustainability Strategy includes proposals to encourage the development of a sustainability culture within State and Local Government organisations, including:

- Internal communications
- Notification of progress towards sustainability objectives
- CPD / training
- A State Sustainability Conference
- Sustainability Achievement awards

*5.2.4 Communications (getting the message across)*

The Association considers that one of the prime challenges for the State Sustainability Strategy is to enunciate to the public:

- What is meant by Sustainability
- How they will recognise Sustainable practice when they see it
- That progress is important and will be tracked and reported

The Association believes that further work is required to develop “plain English” definitions of sustainability and associated concepts in order to facilitate a ready understanding in the public of the issues and their importance.

Another way of communicating and reinforcing the message is to clearly identify the various initiatives within the Strategy via a sustainability “branding”. For example a sustainability logo could be developed which could be used in web and printed material associated with actions taken by State or Local Government (preferably extended nation-wide in due course). This process would not only advertise progress of implementation of the Strategy, but facilitate a better understanding of how individual activities fit within the broad sustainability agenda.

It is also important that within the set of sustainability indicators to be developed as part of the Strategy, there will be broad high level (rolled-up) indicators that convey easy to understand messages about the progress of the State towards a sustainable future. Such indicators should be understandable by the general public.

*Recommendation*

That the communications strategy adopted to inform the public about the Sustainability Strategy and its implementation employ “plain English” definitions, “branding” of sustainability activities and simple high-level indicators appropriate for public consumption.

5.3 Alignment of State and Local Government Policy / Processes with Sustainability Principles

5.3.1 *Planning / Building (greening the Built Environment)*

5.3.1.1 Sustainable Planning / Liveable Neighbourhoods

At present, the statutory planning process does not generally incorporate sustainability measures into the assessment of proposed developments. Development proposals are often considered on a ‘case by case’ basis, which provides limited opportunity to consider issues associated with long-term sustainability. It is important for Local Government to put in place long-term planning strategies that address particular land uses and set appropriate guidelines with the guidance and support from State Agencies. These long-term strategies need to be developed in consultation with the community and achieve an agreed outcome. This approach will ensure that developments occur in accordance with a proper framework and avoid ‘ad-hoc’ development that has limited reference to the long-term objectives for an area.

The community design guidelines for urban developments known as *Liveable Neighbourhoods* was issued in 1997 as an alternative to current sub-division policies by the WAPC with the intention of a 12 month trial period of use and review. A revised version was issued in 2000. This edition stated that the review period was to be extended until February 2001, the Ministry of Planning website presently says the end of 2001. The Association, while not wishing to convey unqualified support for all aspects of Liveable Neighbourhoods as presently formulated, believe it is imperative that the State formalise more sustainable forms of residential planning policy as a matter of urgency.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable contribute to the current review of Liveable Neighbourhood with a view to its finalisation and adoption as a Statement of Planning Policy as part of the State Sustainability Strategy.

5.3.1.2 Home Energy rating system

The use of energy in the home is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from Australian households. The average household's energy use is responsible for about eight tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the main greenhouse gas, per year. Many of these emissions can be abated through more efficient use of energy in our homes. Some 70% of the energy used in the residential environment is used for space and water heating, cooling and lighting. All of these can be reduced significantly by more appropriate design and materials selection. NSW, Victoria and ACT have now all recognised the importance of introducing home energy rating systems to improve new house design. In the Australian Capital Territory a software based house energy rating scheme has been in place for some time. New houses are required to achieve at least a four star energy rating before they receive final approval. In NSW nearly 50 councils have already agreed to join the scheme under which an energy

rating of three and a half stars, measured according to Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme software, will be the minimum for approval of a new home development application. Victoria is running a similar pilot scheme.

There seems no impediment in Western Australia adopting a home energy rating system based on the experiences of these other States. The Association considers the implementation of such a scheme to be a high priority.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable conduct a review of the various options for a home energy rating scheme with a view to its finalisation and adoption as part of the State Sustainability Strategy.

#### 5.3.1.3 Water conservation measures

Western Australians are amongst the highest per capita water consumers in Australia. The current water shortages in Perth highlight the need for urgent action to modify water usage patterns in the State. The Association believes a range of measures should be considered to conserve scheme water including:

- Use of rainwater tanks in residential, commercial and industrial premises
- Recycling of greywater for use in gardens and toilets
- Promotion of native gardens (which also has biodiversity benefits)
- Water efficient appliances and shower heads
- Water quotas

Local Government can play a critical role in this area.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable contribute to a review of the various options for reducing water consumption with a view to adoption of a range of strategies as part of the State Sustainability Strategy.

#### 5.3.1.4 Greywater Re-use

Recent policy changes by the Water Corporation have enabled consideration of greywater reuse on sewered properties. There are no currently approved greywater re-use systems that permit reticulation of greywater onto gardens although subsoil systems have been approved by the Health Department.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable contribute to a review of the various greywater re-use options with a view to the adoption of one or more in the State Sustainability Strategy.

#### 5.3.1.5 Cultural Landscapes

A counterbalance to the overwhelming force of globalisation is the reassurance of community – the essence of this community is captured in the cultural landscape. The connection between people and their environment is recognised as an important factor in building sustainable communities. Cultural landscapes offer a significant way of looking at place that focuses not on monuments but on the relationship between human activity and the natural environment. Developing policies to build cultural landscapes requires a clear understanding of community values and community priorities, ie the things that are precious / important to the community.

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop a strategy to integrate community values data into state & local government strategic & operational decision making systems.

### 5.3.2 *Community (connecting people with decisions that affect them)*

#### 5.3.2.1 Informed & appropriate community inputs / consultation

Community involvement is a key principle of sustainability. It is increasingly recognised that sustainability cannot be achieved, nor significant progress made toward it, without the support and involvement of the whole community.

Much of the consultation carried out in the past by either Local Government or State agencies has been criticised as being unfocussed, ineffective and subject to hijack by special interest groups. More sophisticated methods of interfacing with the community are needed in order to achieve the intended purpose and avoid *community consultation fatigue*. The development of such methodologies will require an examination of emerging approaches nationally & internationally. Innovative approaches such as the use of citizen's juries and advisory committees should be included in this study, which should also consider:

- Needs assessment / planning
- Information access - good information underlies any attitude changes
- Non urban issues need special attention – salinity, death of small towns, loss of neighbours
- Involving specific groups (eg aboriginal communities, youth, residents, business)
- Training– necessary to develop officer awareness and ability

The Association believes that improved emphasis on *informed and appropriate* community consultation should be a critically important component of the State Sustainability Strategy. The Association further believes that Local Government can play an important function in coordinating community inputs on a whole-of-government basis, thereby taking advantage of Local Government's proximity to the community. However it is emphasised that Local Government cannot undertake such a role within present budgetary constraints.

#### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable undertakes a study to investigate the development of informed and appropriate Local Government based community consultation procedures to be used across State and Local Government.

### 5.3.3 *R&D, Education & Training (aligning programmes with sustainability needs)*

#### 5.3.3.1 Universities Partnerships

Many of the State's sustainability challenges (including some identified in this submission) require the development of new methodologies or technologies. The State's universities are an under-utilised resource in this regard. A closer alignment between the research activities (particularly in the natural and social sciences / engineering) and the needs of community to develop more sustainable practices would be a major contribution to the State's sustainability. Many of the issues are pressing for Local Government, eg:

- Economic development
- Social cohesion and equity
- Salinity
- Biodiversity
- Sustainable Planning

A partnership between the universities and the State / Local Government could incorporate a dialogue on research matters, but also contribute to teaching and vacation employment programmes (eg in Native Vegetation programmes).

#### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable contributes to the State Government's plans with respect to University partnerships for Sustainability.

#### 5.3.3.2 Library and Information Services

Local governments provide a key pathway for community education and information via local government's role in library services. The Sustainability Strategy should recognise the opportunity this provides for community information and education on sustainability and related matters.

##### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable should examine the potential of incorporating Local Government's provision of access to information and community education vis a vis the State Sustainability Strategy.

#### 5.3.4 Transport (minimising emissions, improving accessibility)

Transport and the movement of vehicles have come to play a significant role in determining the shape and form of our cities. Urban planning has to a large extent been heavily influenced by the need to accommodate the vehicle within the urban environment at the expense of more efficient methods of transportation. In addition, government economic policies have for some time focussed on increasing employment levels and consumption figures through massive road development projects within and for new housing developments. New housing developments have largely been on the urban fringe that are poorly serviced by public transport and hence contribute to the increasing number of private vehicles on the road.

The impacts of current forms of transport systems range from the loss of habitat through the destruction of the environment for road building, fragmentation of communities as a result of main roads and high traffic volumes and increasing health complications from rising levels of air pollutants. Casualties and injuries as a result of vehicle accidents are also a major concern within Western Australia and place large demands on the health care and police service system.

The need to comprehensively assess the impacts of transportation on the economy, environment and society is seriously needed in order to manage the issues surrounding private vehicle use and to strategically plan for sustainable transport systems. There is a need for all levels of government to adopt "predict and prevent" approach to transport planning to ensure that the impacts of transport systems are assessed, managed and abated in the future.

##### 5.3.4.1 Local Government Transport Strategy

Only a few local governments have taken a complete approach to their transport investments, plans, policies and works programs. Consequently decisions are sometimes made on an ad hoc basis without an understanding of all of the issues and consequences. Decisions tend to reflect current trends (often car dominated) rather than choosing a direction that will result in real improvements. Local Governments would benefit from the development of transport strategies, based on common State guidelines to provide a framework to guide decisions to achieve transport sustainability. The strategy should address efficiency, effectiveness, reliability, safety and robustness for future transport. Each strategy should consider the requirements for all types of transport and all purposes and ensure that transport planning is based on future needs. Actions should be assessed against economic, social and environmental criteria. The transport strategy should promote more sustainable transport systems.

The transport strategy approach is equally applicable for urban, rural and remote areas but will result in different emphasis of action. For instance an urban local government may put priority on walking, cycling and public transport, while a remote may target the reliability of road access and road safety.

##### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop common guidelines for the preparation of local transport strategies to provide an efficient and effective local transport system which is based on future needs, integrated into regional transport systems and which reduce private car use.

### An Accessibility Assessment System

Performance assessment is becoming more common, particularly for environmental issues. It is widely accepted for car fuel efficiency, appliance energy efficiency and building energy efficiency (in the Eastern States). The same principles can be applied to an urban subdivision or structure plan. In the first instance performance criteria need to be developed, which can then be applied and eventually come into common use and understanding. The accessibility performance criteria would represent transport sustainability and could include:

- walkability/ cyclability,
- residential density,
- employment self sufficiency and community services, and
- bus services.

Eventually minimum standards could be developed for subdivisions and structure plans which could be enforced through planning controls.

#### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop an accessibility assessment scheme for application in structure plans and subdivisions.

### 5.3.4.3 State / Local Vehicle purchasing

It is essential that State and Local Government take a leadership position on the question of purchasing more environmentally friendly vehicles. Although many Local Governments have policies in this regard, and are moving towards LPG powered vehicles, there is no question that a state-wide purchasing policy, supported by the buying power this offers, would greatly accelerate the transition.

#### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable investigate the options, with a view to the adoption of a common State / Local Government energy efficient vehicle purchasing strategy.

### 5.3.4.4 Excessive Emission Vehicles

While emission standards are improving in new vehicles, there remain many vehicles on the road which have unacceptable emissions. The Association believes that the Government should introduce a system to remove vehicles that do not meet minimum emissions requirements.

#### *Recommendation*

That the State Government introduces a vehicle inspection program integrated with the licensing system to remove vehicles off the road that do not conform to minimum fuel efficiency standards.

### 5.3.5 *Natural Resource Management (restoring and protecting ecological integrity)*

#### 5.3.5.1 Native vegetation / Biodiversity

The management of Australia's natural resources and associated issues such as salinity, biodiversity conservation, drainage and soil loss and degradation, have been recognised as one of the most significant issues facing Australia since European colonisation. In recognising the severity of the issue, Commonwealth and State Governments have committed significant expenditure over the next 5 to 7 years in an attempt to address the issue. To accompany this expenditure, a framework for a regional based approach to Natural Resource Management (NRM) has been developed.

The negative effects of issues such as salinity are already having significant impacts on numerous Western Australian Local Governments and their communities. The loss of income base for constituents, salt destruction of roads and town infrastructure and the general uncertainty associated with these events place Local Governments at the frontline of NRM.

Recognition from the other spheres of Government of the role of Local Government in the regional approach to NRM has been slow to emerge. The Association is encouraged by recent decisions and communications from Commonwealth agencies, which indicates a growing appreciation of the need to effectively engage with Local Governments both during the development and implementation of Regional NRM Plans.

The Association has pursued an NRM Partnership Agreement with the State Government and relevant agencies. State agencies have commitment to a process for developing the NRM partnership Agreement and a working group has been established to progress development.

*Recommendation*

That the working group established to progress development of the State and Local Government Natural Resource Management Partnership Agreement be recognised as the vehicle to progress Natural Resource Management issues between State and Local Government.

5.3.6 *Waste Management (reducing, re-using and recycling waste)*

5.3.6.1 Strategic Planning

The role of Local Government in waste management has evolved from traditional municipal waste collection and disposal services under the provisions of the Health Act, to a more comprehensive service better attuned to environmental and social issues.

To support the activities of Local Government and other waste management service providers, the State Government must develop a definitive long-term strategic plan. A broad reaching public education program must be derived from such a plan. This lack of strategic direction has resulted in a somewhat uncoordinated approach to waste management and an unfair burden in Local Government when it comes to a number of important areas.

There have been some recent positive steps taken at a State level in respect to waste management. The Minister has appointed a Waste Management Board, who has been charged with establishing an integrated approach to waste reduction, re-use and recycling strategies across the State. It is hoped that the Board will provide the necessary leadership and drive reforms in the waste management industry. While such a move is well supported by Local Government, it is essential that the Board be adequately resourced to enable it to operate to its full potential and provide the direction needed. Given Local Governments role as the primary provider of waste management services to the community, it is essential that they be involved in any planning by the State in this area. The Municipal Waste Advisory Council, a committee of the Local Government Association has delegated authority to represent the Association on all issues relating to waste management.

*Recommendation*

That the Waste Management Board, in consultation with the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, develop a long term strategic for waste management in Western Australia which properly reflects the respective responsibilities of State and Local Government.

5.3.6.2 Hazardous Waste Management

The State Government must take responsibility for the management of intractable, high, medium and low-level hazardous waste. The failure to take responsibility for this issue in the past has resulted in both environmentally and socially undesirable outcomes. Local Governments have been collecting and storing household hazardous waste without the State providing suitable management or disposal options.

*Recommendation*

That the Waste Management Board, in consultation with the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, develop a strategy for dealing with existing stockpiles of hazardous waste, and for proper storage and disposal of future waste



#### 5.3.6.3 Waste Facility Siting Issues

In both the area of hazardous waste management facilities and siting of Secondary Resource Recovery facilities, Local Governments have suffered from a lack of long term planning on the part of the State Government.

##### *Recommendation*

That the Waste Management Board, in consultation with the Municipal Waste Advisory Council, develop a planning and siting process, in consultation with communities to provide for a sustainable outcome.

#### 5.4 Common State / LG Sustainability methodologies & resources

##### 5.4.1 *Decision making (balancing social, environmental & economic imperatives)*

###### 5.4.1.1 Sustainability Guidelines

It is essential that the policy development and day-to-day decisions of State and Local Government authorities are consistent with any sustainability principles adopted under the State Strategy. It can be difficult to reconcile the necessity to make contemporary decisions with the longer-term imperatives of sustainability. Processes and procedures are necessary to assist decision-makers to put the issue at hand in the context of sustainability by considering the impact of proposals (and alternatives) on such matters as <sup>(2)</sup>:

- Long-Term Effects
- Off-Site Effects
- Cumulative Effects
- Self-Reliance
- Economic Diversity
- Environmental Diversity
- Growth
- Throughput (the quantity and flow of resources that are processed, used, and turned into waste)
- Fairness
- Public Services / utilities
- Finances
- Natural Resources
- Waste
- Multiple Benefits

There is much work going on around the world on this subject, which can be assimilated and adapted to suit State and Local Government in Western Australia.

##### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop a set of sustainability guidelines to assist decision-makers suitable for the development of policy and day-to-day activities.

###### 5.4.1.2 Improved Information base

Balancing economic, social and environmental considerations requires an accurate assessment of the current status. State of the Environment (SoE) reporting has been adopted at a National and State level. Consideration should be given to building the State's SOE report region-by-region, with the active participation of Local Government. Such a process would facilitate benchmarking and progress measurement on a regional basis.

In the longer term the State of Environment concept could be extended to encompass social and economic matters, thus producing a kind of Sustainability Balance Sheet for the State.

##### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council investigates the feasibility of revising the SOE process to facilitate regional SOE assessments.

#### 5.4.1.3 Access to expertise

Much progress towards sustainability in Government (and elsewhere) is hampered by lack of expertise on technical issues related to sustainability, eg green building, integrated transport, water technology, environmental science. It isn't viable for either State agencies or Local Governments to employ specialists in each of these areas. An alternative is to develop panel contracts (of which there are many examples in State Government agencies) to pre-qualify consultants under various areas of expertise on a whole of government basis, with details centrally data-based. These consultants could then be utilised by either State agencies or Local Government, thus sharing scarce resources and encouraging shared information.

##### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop panel contracts and a centralised database under specialist areas of expertise to facilitate the use of consultants by State and Local Government.

#### 5.4.1.4 Sustainability Impact Assessment

Sustainability Impact Assessments are an extension of the concept of Environmental Impact Assessment to encompass social and economic impacts. The use of this approach has been recommended in the Review of Major Project Approvals in the State Development portfolio. Such an assessment is intended to be a major input into the consideration by government of the suitability of any particular project to proceed. Guidelines for such assessments could be developed for use across State and Local Government, and should be flexible enough to cater for:

- Proposed projects
- Policy programmes
- Business as usual

##### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop a set of guidelines for Sustainability Impact Assessments for use across State and Local Government.

#### 5.4.1.5 Life Cycle Assessment

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) is a methodology which aggregates the environmental impact over the whole life of a facility, item of plant or process, as indicated below:

Life Cycle Phase	Environmental Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resource extraction</li><li>• Manufacture</li><li>• Construction</li><li>• Maintenance</li><li>• Demolition</li><li>• Disposal / recycling</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Resource use</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Global Warming potential</li><li>• Solid Waste</li><li>• Air Pollution</li><li>• Water Pollution</li></ul>

Although the underlying inventories to support such assessments are not yet extensive, they are building all the time. Research on LCA is being undertaken by:

- Curtin University's Centre for Excellence in Cleaner Production
- the Centre for Design at RMIT, and the Centre for Water and Waste Technology at the University of New South Wales as part of the Cooperative Research Centre for Waste Management and Pollution Control.

##### *Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council investigate the potential for development and

*Sustainability Tools (assisting people to deliver sustainable outcomes)*

A range of tools are required to assist decision-makers deliver more sustainable outcomes. Although there may be some differences between individual authorities on the need and nature of such tools, there is sufficient overlap for much benefit to derive from a common approach across State and Local Government to such issues as:

Green procurement models	For the purchasing of goods and services
Life Cycle Costing for facilities and equipment	A methodology which considers the whole of life cost including capital, maintenance and replacement costs
Standard Specifications	For materials, plant, equipment (based on LCA)
Best value approach	To enable consideration of matters other than cost
Checklists	For simple day-to-day activities

*Recommendation*

That the LG Sustainability Roundtable / Advisory Council develop a set of sustainability tools for use across State and Local Government.

REFERENCES

1. Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) <http://www.globalreporting.org/>
2. Rocky Mountain Institute, "Critical Thinking for Sustainable Community Decision-Making - A Community Leadership Tool" <http://www.rmi.org/>

## AGENDA 21 – CHAPTER 28

### LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21

#### PROGRAMME AREA

##### Basis for action

28.1. Because so many of the problems and solutions being addressed by Agenda 21 have their roots in local activities, the participation and cooperation of local authorities will be a determining factor in fulfilling its objectives. Local authorities construct, operate and maintain economic, social and environmental infrastructure, oversee planning processes, establish local environmental policies and regulations, and assist in implementing national and subnational environmental policies. As the level of governance closest to the people, they play a vital role in educating, mobilizing and responding to the public to promote sustainable development.

##### Objectives

28.2. The following objectives are proposed for this programme area:

- a. By 1996, most local authorities in each country should have undertaken a consultative process with their populations and achieved a consensus on "a local Agenda 21" for the community;
- b. By 1993, the international community should have initiated a consultative process aimed at increasing cooperation between local authorities;
- c. By 1994, representatives of associations of cities and other local authorities should have increased levels of cooperation and coordination with the goal of enhancing the exchange of information and experience among local authorities;
- d. All local authorities in each country should be encouraged to implement and monitor programmes which aim at ensuring that women and youth are represented in decision-making, planning and implementation processes.

##### Activities

28.3. Each local authority should enter into a dialogue with its citizens, local organizations and private enterprises and adopt "a local Agenda 21". Through consultation and consensus-building, local authorities would learn from citizens and from local, civic, community, business and industrial organizations and acquire the information needed for formulating the best strategies. The process of consultation would increase household awareness of sustainable development issues. Local authority programmes, policies, laws and regulations to achieve Agenda 21 objectives would be assessed and modified, based on local programmes adopted. Strategies could also be used in supporting proposals for local, national, regional and international funding.

28.4. Partnerships should be fostered among relevant organs and organizations such as UNDP, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNEP, the World Bank, regional banks, the International Union of Local Authorities, the World Association of the Major Metropolises, Summit of Great Cities of the World, the United Towns Organization and other relevant partners, with a view to mobilizing increased international support for local authority programmes. An important goal would be to support, extend and improve existing institutions working in the field of local authority capacity-building and local environment management. For this purpose: Habitat and other relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system are called upon to strengthen services in collecting information on strategies of local authorities, in particular for those that need international support;

Periodic consultations involving both international partners and developing countries could review strategies and consider how such international support could best be mobilized. Such a sectoral consultation would complement concurrent country-focused consultations, such as those taking place in consultative groups and round tables.

28.5. Representatives of associations of local authorities are encouraged to establish processes to increase the exchange of information, experience and mutual technical assistance among local authorities.

##### Means of implementation

###### (a) Financing and cost evaluation

28.6. It is recommended that all parties reassess funding needs in this area. The Conference secretariat has estimated the average total annual cost (1993-2000) for strengthening international secretariat services for implementing the activities in this chapter to be about \$1 million on grant or concessional terms. These are indicative and order-of-magnitude estimates only and have not been reviewed by Governments.

###### (b) Human resource development and capacity-building

28.7. This programme should facilitate the capacity-building and training activities already contained in other chapters of Agenda 21.

# THE “SUSTAINING OUR COMMUNITIES” DECLARATION

Endorsed at the “Sustaining Our Communities” International Local Agenda 21 Conference Adelaide, 3-6 March 2002

## PREAMBLE

Gathered in Adelaide, Australia, on 6 March 2002 we acknowledge that in the five years since the Newcastle Declaration and in the ten years since the Rio Earth Summit, much has been achieved at the local level in Australia in the quest for sustainability. We celebrate the achievements of Councils and local communities in Australia actively pursuing sustainable development objectives.

Action by various stakeholders has resulted in progress towards meeting the goals established at Rio de Janeiro. There remains a pressing need for further action at all levels to be accelerated if the global sustainable development objectives of Agenda 21 are to be realised. The Newcastle Declaration is acknowledged as a starting point. It is *time to move from commitment to action*.

## PRINCIPLES AND VALUES FOR LOCAL ACTION TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

As representatives of Australian Local Government and members of the global community, we subscribe to the following fundamental principles:

Acknowledging the primacy of ecological sustainability, we are united in the responsibility for the well-being of present and future generations. Therefore, we will strive to achieve social equity and to reverse any action that contributes to poverty creation or social exclusion. We will also work towards achieving quality of life in a healthy environment. We value and respect differences in culture, gender, religion, race and age, and recognise and strengthen the leadership of youth through processes which empower. We recognise that diversity contributes to the social wealth of our communities, in particular the contribution of Indigenous peoples.

*We share, not own this world, and recognise the right of all species to exist.*

*We believe that the economy, the human activities that process natural resources into goods and services that satisfy human and societal needs, must become socially just and ecologically efficient.*

*We accept shared responsibility for sustainable development. We will involve citizens and work in partnership with all levels of government and local stakeholders including Non Government Organisations, towards our global vision in a comprehensive, integrated way.*

## OUR COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

We, Local Government leaders, from Australia and neighbouring regions gathered in Adelaide, are committed to:

### *1. Continuing the implementation of Agenda 21 in our Local Governments and their communities*

Priorities for action are to: 

- Ensure adequate opportunities for networking, promotion and discussion of Agenda 21 and sustainability;
- Develop and maintain networks of all councils across Australia, the Asia Pacific region and internationally to address Agenda 21 and sustainability issues;
- Support leadership programs that enhance the capacity of Local Government to achieve sustainability;
- Ensure sustainability practices are the foundation for strategic, corporate and operational decision making;
- Celebrate and learn from the diversity within and between local communities and develop frameworks to integrate environmental and cultural sustainability.

To be addressed through the following approaches:

- Implement and monitor progress on sustainability by establishing dialogues and building relationships;
- Strengthen participatory democracy;
- Facilitate collaborative partnerships within and between communities with common goals;

- Assess all our local councils' strategic, corporate and operational decision-making against sustainability objectives;
- Build upon and implement monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Develop and report measures with and for our communities to track and celebrate our progress to a sustainable society;
- Encourage and support other local authorities, whether neighbouring, regional, interstate or international municipalities, to develop an ongoing commitment to Agenda 21;
- Work collaboratively with other stakeholders by participating in regional, state, national and global forums on sustainable development;
- Harness information, knowledge and skills located in the community.

## *2. Continuing the implementation of Agenda 21 by establishing partnerships with non-government organisations, business and finance, and education and research institutions*

Priorities for action are:

- Identify and facilitate strategic opportunities for cross-sectoral partnerships.

To be addressed through the following approaches:

- Achieve mutually agreed outcomes for sustainable development;
- Address the priority areas, as identified internationally (or globally), of poverty eradication, reversing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing natural resources;
- Provide practical support for effectively achieving sustainability at the local level by fostering information exchange and technology transfer mechanisms;
- Develop partnerships based on achieving mutually beneficial outcomes for sustainability.

## *3. Continuing the implementation of Agenda 21 by working as a partner with national, state and territory governments*

Priorities for action are: 

- Renew our collective commitment to Agenda 21;
- Work in partnership with state, territory and the commonwealth governments to develop sustainability policy agendas;
- Communicate processes and outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to Local Governments and their communities;
- Adopt sustainability as a guiding principle in all international agreements.

To be addressed through the following approaches:

- Provide practical support to local government to adopt and mainstream sustainable development into local Councils' strategic, corporate and operational decision-making;
- Develop adaptable, flexible and responsive partnerships;
- Remove barriers that inhibit the transfer of sustainable technologies and promote the development of local technologies that will facilitate local solutions to local problems;
- Participate in global forums and address the priority areas, as identified internationally;
- Develop agreed targets and standards;
- Review, at all levels of government, legislation, statutory instruments and policy for consistency with sustainability principles;
- Advocate that all development is biodiversity positive;
- Aim for a zero waste society;
- Share experiences and outcomes from effective partnership arrangements;
- Support initiatives for reversing the effects of climate change.

We the undersigned support and acknowledge the outcomes as listed in the above statements.

Cr John Ross President Australian Local Government Association	Mr Wayne Westcott Executive Director International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives	Mayor Johanna McLuskey President Local Government Association of South Australia	Alfred Huang The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Adelaide
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## **CITY OF COCKBURN**

Land area: 148 km<sup>2</sup>

Budget: \$40,000,000

**Population: 74,000**

### ***Brief History***

1. The first step in the development of Council's LA21 has been the establishment of a number of key programs and completion of several important studies. This commenced in 1995 with the establishment of an Environmental Services section. Since this time comprehensive environmental monitoring, environmental management and environmental planning programs have developed.
2. Key studies and plans have also been completed which will help form the basis of the LA21 strategy. These include the preparation of a Natural Reserve Management Study and completion of management plans for key conservation reserves, completion of an Integrated Coastal Management Plan, completion of the State of the Environment Report, completion of the Greening Plan, preparation of an EMS for Councils operations, completion of a Rural Bushfire Management Strategy, completion of milestone 4 in the Cities for Climate protection program, development of an Ecotourism Strategy and completion of water quality management strategies for key wetlands and a weed management strategy for all of Councils conservation reserves.
3. Council formally committed to the development of an LA21 Strategy (now called it's Sustainable Development Strategy) in mid 1998. At this time, a broad framework for the preparation of the plan was also endorsed.
4. This commitment was reaffirmed in March 1999 with Council being one of the signatories to the Mandurah Declaration on LA21, at the Mandurah LA21 Workshop. In addition the environment is included as a key result area in Councils Corporate Strategic Plan.
5. The preparation of a State of the Environment Report for the City was commenced in early 1999. This report has provided key information for the development of the LA21 Strategy and a basis for determining sustainable development indicators.
6. Funding for the development of the Strategy was approved in Councils 1999/2000 budget and funding has continued to be allocated for developing a detailed methodology and to initiate the Strategy.
7. The Sustainable Development Strategy Document has now been completed and will be presented to Council for endorsement in June 2002. The initial phase of developing Departmental Action plans for the Council has now commenced and will tie in with Action plans being developed as part of the EMS process.

### **Practical Initiatives**

1. Heritage Inventory
2. Integrated Coastal Management Strategy
3. Bushland Conservation Policy
4. Native Fauna Protection Policy
5. Wetland Conservation Policy

6. Control Measures For Protecting Water Resources In Receiving Environments Policy
7. Design Principles For Incorporating Natural Management Areas, Including Wetlands and Bushland, In Open Space &/Or Drainage Areas Policy
8. Rural Bushfire Risk Management Strategy
9. Natural Reserves Management Study
10. Weed Control Strategy for Conservation Reserves
11. Cities for Climate Protection – completion of milestones 1,2,3 & 4
12. Environmental Management System – currently being completed for Council's operations
13. Greening Plan
14. Completion of Management Plans for Lake Coogee, Market Garden Swamps, Yangebup and Little Rush Lakes, Denis De young Reserve and Freshwater POS.
15. Integrated Midge Control Strategy
16. State of the Environment Report
17. Ecotourism Strategy
18. Bibra Lake Water Quality Management Strategy
19. Yangebup Lake Water Quality and Catchment Management Strategy
20. Market Garden Swamps Water Management Study
21. Kwinana Air Quality Buffer Study
22. Fire Management Plans for Conservation Reserves
23. Sustainable Development Strategy Plan – to be referred to Council in June 2002 for Endorsement.

#### Lessons Learned

1. Probably the Key lesson learnt to date has been that it is more efficient and effective to prepare strategic plans such as EMS, SOE Reports and SDS plans using in-house project staff or a combination of in-house staff and consultants. This is because a detailed knowledge of Council policies and operations and a close working relationship with key staff are required for these strategic plans and this is difficult to achieve using consultants alone.
2. Another lesson learnt is that it is necessary to get involvement from all departments as early as possible so that the concept of sustainable development is not seen as just another environmental project but that complex connections between social, economic and environmental issues can be identified (if not understood) at an early stage.

#### Program Facts and Figures

1. Council has three full time Environmental officers, two part time field/technical officers and a contract Bush Regeneration Officer working within the Environmental Services section.
2. The Environmental Services section has an average annual budget of approximately \$900,000 to cover all operation costs, environmental management works and projects and studies.
3. In the 2001/2002 budget \$30,000 was allocated specifically to the LA21 Budget and the Environmental Services section has requested a similar amount to be set aside in the 2002/2003 budget specifically for sustainability projects including training and community awareness programs.



## CITY OF FREMANTLE

### Council Profile:

Land Area: 18.7 km<sup>2</sup>  
Budget: \$35 109 274  
Population: 24 276

### Brief History

1. Council committed to developing a sustainability plan on 18 August 1997.
- 2. Workshops were conducted for councillors, staff and community to discuss sustainability and its application in Fremantle.**
3. A state of environment report has been prepared (preliminary draft) and is still being finalised for public review in July 2002.
4. An informal committee was formed with Murdoch University students, Councillors and City of Fremantle staff to look at how LA21 should be developed. For various reasons, this committee did not continue and was disbanded in 1998.
5. The City of Fremantle employed an environmental planner in late 1998 to progress the development of the sustainability plan. However, limited progress has been made to the preparation of the sustainability plan due to position being vacant from June 2001 to January 2002 and time constraints upon the previous incumbent.
6. It is expected that sustainability planning will become an important focus within City of Fremantle over the coming years.

### Practical Initiatives

1. CCP Program commenced in 1998. Milestone 3 has been achieved and work is in progress to achieve Milestone 4.
2. Environmental Policy Statement adopted by Council in 2000.
3. Our Place - Cultural Policy and Plan finalised in 1998.
4. Fremantle Recreation Policy and Strategy finalised in 2001.
5. Fremantle Green Plan finalised in 2001.
6. Preliminary Draft of State of Environment Report being finalised for public review in July 2002.
7. Interim Heritage Database soon to become Municipal Heritage Inventory.
8. Sustainable Economic Development Strategy was released in 1998 and is now superseded by an Economic Development Action Program (January 2002).
9. Invest in Fremantle document is still in use. It is expected that a new document will be prepared as part of the business attraction strategy currently under review.
10. Fremantle CAT service commenced in August 2000 and the route has recently expanded to South Fremantle. The service now provides free local public transport for more than 12, 000 people per week.
11. A Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Schedule has been prepared as a discussion paper for incorporation with the new Town Planning Scheme (CPS4)
12. Transport Strategy has been deferred pending a Councillor workshop to be held in the near future.

### Lessons Learned

#### Opportunities:

1. LA21 has highlighted that current plans, policies and other work that City of Fremantle is undertaking is allowing Fremantle to progress towards a more sustainable future. Through LA21, the City of Fremantle is able to pull together initiatives and present to the community a clear and concise approach to what we hope to achieve in the future and the means by which we will get there.
2. LA21 will also highlight opportunities for future policy planning which can assist in the progression towards sustainability within the City of Fremantle.

3. LA21 also allows the City of Fremantle to work with the community through the precinct system and working groups to develop specific actions to improve the sustainability of Fremantle in areas such as transportation, energy efficient homes and waste reduction etc.
4. Improved community participation through the LA21 project is seen as a positive opportunity to mobilise the resources within the community to progress local sustainability.
5. Collective action by local government authorities on sustainability issues can be made easier through the LA21 process particularly for issues which cross boundaries.

**Concerns:**

1. LA21 is a complex area crossing over all business units of the City of Fremantle and needs to have a whole of organisation approach to be truly successful. The environment and sustainability is an important community concern and is therefore given a high priority.
2. Changing the culture of the organisation to think of a sustainable future when undertaking daily tasks, such as ordering paper, purchasing vehicles, buying equipment etc. will require effort and time.
3. The responsibility for developing LA21 is currently allocated to one officer and it can be challenging to organise workloads appropriately. The community is keen to see actions on the ground, not just more policy or talk.
4. Lack of support from the State Government in the areas such as transportation and planning will greatly influence how sustainable Fremantle as well as rest of Western Australia will be in the future.

**Program Facts and Figures**

1. **Staffing:** One officer although approximately 25 % of their time is spent on sustainability directly. Depending on the project, other officers within the City of Fremantle assist from time to time.
2. **Budget:** \$5,000 (01/02)
3. **Key reports:** see above
4. **Key contact:**  
Caroline Raphael  
Environmental Planner  
caroliner@fremantle.wa.gov.au  
Ph: (08) 9432 9914

## COUNCIL PROFILE; CITY OF JOONDALUP

Land Area; 96.8 km<sup>2</sup>  
Budget; \$71.1 million.  
Population; 161,000

### BRIEF HISTORY

**1974:** Western Australian Wildlife Research facility officially opened at Woodvale.

**1980:** WA State Government establishes Marmion Marine Park. "The Government considers that the establishment of the Marmion Park is a most significant event in the States marine history..."

**1988:** Underwater World opens (renamed in 2000, Aquarium of Western Australia). AQWA's vision is to be the premier provider of nature-based interactions with the marine environment of Western Australia and the recognised centre of marine knowledge for the state.

**March 1994:** "City of Wanneroo Inventory of Heritage Places" submitted to the City.

**October 1995;** "Charting Wanneroo's Environmental Future" issued. The City of Wanneroo Environmental Advisory Committee presents the Local Conservation Strategy (Working Report 1, Background, Principles and Priorities), to the Wanneroo City Council. This document discussed the rationale behind the local conservation strategy, including principles for sustainable living, Agenda 21 and definitions of sustainable development.

The City commissioned two studies by Chambers and Galloway & Associates, into the development of a Local Agenda 21 framework, and the State of the Environment and Sustainability Indicators Report, to promote sustainable development initiatives.

**May 1998:** Energy Efficiency Strategy released by City of Wanneroo.

**July 1998;** Chambers and Galloway & Associates submit a report to the City, entitled "Development of a Local Agenda 21 Framework for the City of Wanneroo". The aim of the study was to develop a framework to guide the preparation of the City's Local Agenda 21. Six major sustainability themes are identified including building community, transport, urban form, local economic development and employment, bio-diversity and Council support for sustainable development.

**1999:** City of Joondalup 1999-2003 Strategic Plan issued. "Our vision is to be a major regional community for the 21<sup>st</sup> century which is a sustainable community with a wide range of opportunities for leisure, education, business development and employment".

The City joins the Cities for Climate Protection programme, working collaboratively with the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) and the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO).

**January 1999;** Chambers and Galloway & Associates submitted a report to the City entitled "State of the Environment and Sustainability Indicators Report". The aim of this study was to begin the process of environmental, social and economic reporting of the then City of Wanneroo.

The City of Joondalup Strategic Plan (1999-2003) identifies the Local Agenda 21 process as part of the Leadership and Lifestyle strategies of the Strategic Plan. Local Agenda 21 supports the vision statements in the Strategic Plan

**July 1999:** Council policies released; Environmental Sustainability (Policy 2.6.4), Public Participation (Policy 2.6.3). Burning of Garden Refuse and Cleared Vegetation (4.6.1), Sunsmart (Policy 4.4.2).

**April 2000;** City of Joondalup appoints Sustainable Development Officer Mr John Goldsmith. Duties include co-ordination of the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) programme, the Environmental Advisory Committee and the Environmental Development Fund (Community Funding Programme).

City of Joondalup Waste Management Strategy Discussion Paper issued.

**May 2000;** The Environmental Advisory Committee is re-established and meets formally for the first time in over 18 months.

**July 2000:** Council is briefed on Local Agenda 21 and sustainable development, via a "Green Paper".

Council policies released; Waste Management (Policy 5.1.1), Storm-water Drainage into Wetlands (Policy 5.4.2).

Locality guide for 48 parks and reserves, issued by City of Joondalup (Operations Services).

**August 2000:** The City commences an inventory of energy usage and Greenhouse gas emissions for both the corporate (city) and community sector. Special Projects Officer Jacinta Christie conducts the study, under the direction of Sustainable Development Officer John Goldsmith.

**September 2000;** International expert on Ecologically Sustainable Design Chip Kaufman presents to the City on "New Urbanism" and opportunities of Ecologically Sustainable Development.

**October 2000:** The Department of Transport presents to the City the results of the TravelSmart transport survey. International travel consultant Werner Brogg reports on the study. His conclusions identify selected suburbs in Joondalup as having the highest reliance on private motor vehicles in the world.

City of Joondalup Mayor John Bombak accepts the Cities for Climate Protection Milestone 1 Award, from the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI). Media release "City of Joondalup Works to Cut Greenhouse Gasses, Mayor John Bombak accepts Milestone 1 award". City of Joondalup hosts the Cities for Climate Protection Working Group.

Public debate held entitled 20 20 Vision. "Will the City of Joondalup be the Garden of Eden or the Gates of Hell in the year 2020" Held at Edith Cowan University. The debate is broadcast on Channel 31, in December 2000.

**December 2000:** Council appoints Community Representatives to the Environmentally Advisory Committee.

Council approves approximately \$10,000 for community funding for environmental related projects.

The City provides administrative comments on various draft documents relating to sustainability, including the Perth Air Quality Management Plan (PAQMP). The PAQMP sets out a 30 year strategy for improving air quality

in the Perth region. The City is acknowledged as one of only two Local Government Authorities to comment on the draft (comments were also received from the East Metropolitan Regional Council).

The Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints community group receives the 2000 Coast Care award for its coastal dune re-habilitation project at Whitford Nodes. The group is assisted by Operations Services and the project is awarded the outstanding Coastcare Project Award of the Inaugural Coastwest/Coastcare Awards. The City, together with Conservation Technical Officer Keith Armstrong received a Special Commendation for Coastal Leadership. Mr Armstrong was also nominated in the outstanding Individual Coastcare Effort category.

**March 2001;** The City of Joondalup presents the Joondalup Festival (24 and 25 March 2001). The City of Joondalup information display highlights sustainable development and our environment. The sustainability display includes pictures of Joondalup from space, Yellagonga regional park displays and special activities including neighbourhood mapping, recycling, waste management and worm farms.

**May 2001:** Council approves the introduction of dedicated LPG vehicles into the City of Joondalup 6 cylinder light vehicle fleet.

City of Joondalup Environmental Advisory Committee establishes a 12 month project schedule and adopts a guideline for committee members regarding the preparation of reports and business items.

**June 2001:** World Environment Day 2001 celebrated with numerous activities for school children at Neil Hawkins Park, City of Joondalup, and information displays at the City of Joondalup library.

**August 2001:** Cr Hollywood, Cr O'Brien and Sustainable Development Officer represent the City of Joondalup at the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Cities for Climate Protection Conference, Adelaide (1-3 August 2001).

**September 2001:** Council endorses the terms of reference and aims and objectives of the Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee, to provide an advisory role to Council on sustainability, sustainable development and environmental issues.

Council endorses revised community funding policy and guidelines. The Environmental and Sustainable Development Community Fund is established, to enable the City to directly support community initiatives relating to sustainable development.

**October 2001:** Three month public consultation and survey commences on the Enhanced Greenhouse Effect, Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction targets for the community and for Council. Cities for Climate Protection.

**November 2001:** The Aquarium of Western Australia (AQWA) hosts the National Environmental Law Association State Conference. The conference theme is: "The Protection and Sustainability of Water Resources in Western Australia".

**January 2002:** Three month public consultation and survey concludes on the Enhanced Greenhouse Effect, Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction targets for the community and for Council. 98% of respondents believe that there is a Greenhouse Effect and 96% believe Council should adopt a policy.

Water Corporation representative Meredith Blais, Manager Strategic and Business Performance, makes a presentation to the Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee on sustainability and Triple Bottom Line reporting, based on her presentation, "Triple Bottom Line Reporting, What is it and how is it done?" Catherine Hall, Project Manager, Sustainability from the Water Corporation also attends.

The State Government (Sustainability Policy Unit) issues a consultation paper regarding the development of the State's Sustainability Strategy. The city coordinates the preparation of a submission on the Sustainability Strategy.

**February 2002:** Council completes Milestone 2 of the Cities for Climate Protection programme by endorsing a 20% corporate and community Greenhouse gas emission reduction target, and a 35% stretch target.

**March 2002;** The City of Joondalup is awarded the Cities for Climate Protection Milestone 2 Award, presented by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

The City of Joondalup establishes the Sustainable Futures Working Group to conduct an administrative review of the draft Sustainable Futures 2002-2007 sustainability plan for the City.

**April 2002:** Council endorses the City of Joondalup submission on the State Government's proposed Sustainability Strategy, for submission to the Sustainability Policy Unit, Department of Premier and Cabinet. The City's submission is based on input from the Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee and also by staff through-out the administration.

The Mayor, John Bombak officially opens the Craigie Bushland pathway, and launches the City of Joondalup "EnviroCare" brochures. The brochures feature "Our Wetlands", "Craigie Bushland", "Our Coast" and "Our Environment, Our Future".

### **Practical Initiatives**

- Development of Council policy 2.6.4 on "Environmental Sustainability".
- Council endorsed expansion of the Environmental Advisory Committee terms of reference; to specifically address and consider sustainability issues (renamed the Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee). Council endorsed sustainability aims and objectives.
- Council endorsed revision of the Community Funding Programme, to establish the "Environmental and Sustainable Development Community Fund". This fund is believed to be the first such community funding programme by a WA local government authority specifically supporting sustainable development community initiatives.
- Council participation in the Cities for Climate Protection programme, an international sustainability programme addressing Local Government response to Global Warming and Greenhouse gas emission reductions. Council receives the Milestone 1 CCP award for preparing the inventory and forecast of Greenhouse emissions, and Milestone 2 CCP award for endorsing a 20% corporate and community Greenhouse gas emission reduction target by 2010.
- Partnership development and representation on key sustainability networks (e.g. The WA Local Government Association Sustainable Development Advisory Group, and Edith Cowan University's Ecosystem Health Conference Steering Committee).
- Demonstrated leadership within local government by the appointment of the State's first Sustainable Development Officer.

- Development of the City of Joondalup “Sustainable Futures” Sustainability Plan (2002-2007).
- Establishment of the City of Joondalup Sustainable Futures Working Group to review the draft “Sustainable Futures” 2002-2007 Sustainability Plan.

#### Successful Pathways to Progress

**The progress achieved by the City of Joondalup to date is based upon numerous pathways which contribute towards enhancing environmental, social and economic sustainability. Some of the key pathways for success are outline below;**

**Community Support.** Community support greatly facilitates successful outcomes for sustainability initiatives.

**Political Commitment.** Commitment and leadership expressed by Federal, State and Local Government is a key factor which facilitates continued progress.

**Leadership.** Strong and effective leadership provides a clear direction to focus activity towards sustainability goals, particularly in terms of administrative management.

**Goal Setting.** The setting of sustainability goals, which are determined in part by community or stakeholder expectations, can greatly assist Council to focus on desired outcomes. Goal setting provides an excellent way to produce consensus and focus for the community and organisations. Goal setting in terms of both short and long terms goal setting can greatly assist in defining achievable stages.

**Administrative Support and Organisational Management.** Administrative support is essential to progress sustainability initiatives.

**Awareness, Understanding and Commitment.** Communication, training and general awareness encourages people to understand the issues involved in sustainability, their significance to the community and the opportunities. Educational and training opportunities relating to sustainability also assists by dispelling myths or misconceptions regarding sustainability topics.

**Appropriate Communication.** Communication on sustainability issues needs to be pitched at the appropriate level depending upon the audience which the communication is directed towards. For example, the use of plain language is appropriate when communicating with non-specialists, rather than the use of technical jargon.

**Provision of Resources and Funding.** The level of resources and funding allocated for sustainability directly relates to the degree to which sustainability goals can be achieved.

**Team Building, Partnerships and Networks.** The degree of effectiveness of teams, working groups and partnerships influence outcomes.

**Establishment of Staff Positions.** The establishment of dedicated staff positions relating to sustainability, such as the City of Joondalup’s Sustainable Development Officer and the Coordinator, Sustainable Development position, considerably assists organisational progress with sustainability.

**Adopting a Positive Approach.** Positive approaches towards sustainability encourage progress by focusing on achievement and desirable outcomes, and by creating inclusive and win-win opportunities and outcomes.

**Celebration of Successes and Recognition of Achievement.** Recognising achievement and progress towards sustainability goals encourages further progress, by providing positive reinforcement of successful outcomes, achievements and progress.

### **Programme Facts and Figures,**

**Staffing.** The City of Joondalup established what is believed to be the first sustainable development officer position in a WA local government, in 2000, with the appointment of Mr John Goldsmith. The position was initially titled "Local Agenda 21 Officer" which was subsequently re-titled "Sustainable Development Officer". In 2002, the City of Joondalup established the Coordinator Sustainable Development, in Strategic and Corporate Planning business unit, City of Joondalup.

**Budget.** Many areas of the Council budget relate to operations which contribute towards environmental, social and economic sustainability. Council budget allocations for the sustainability programme (subject to Council adoption of the 2002/03 budget) follows;

Sustainability Programme; \$15,000.

Environmental and Sustainable Development Community Fund; \$20,000.

## **KEY REPORTS AND DOCUMENTS**

- City of Joondalup January 2002 "Cities for Climate Protection Targeting Greenhouse Gases Public Consultation and Survey Results". Available from City of Joondalup web site at [living.joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au).
- City of Joondalup (1999) Environmental Sustainability Policy 2.6.4. Available from City of Joondalup web site at [www.joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au) and [living.joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au).
- City of Joondalup (2002) Submission on the Western Australian State Government's Proposed Sustainability Strategy. Available from City of Joondalup web site at [www.joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au) and [living.joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au).
- Chambers and Galloway and Associates. (July 1998). Development of a Local Agenda 21 Framework for the City of Wanneroo.
- Chambers and Galloway (1999) State of the Environment/Sustainability Indicators report.

## **KEY CONTACTS**

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## City of Mandurah

### Council Profile:

Land Area: 178.5 km<sup>2</sup>

**BUDGET: \$26 868 000**

Population: 42 000

### Brief History

1. Development of Community Charter
2. State of the Environment Report and Local Agenda 21 Plan
3. Awareness and Education Campaign – Seminar Series
4. Steering Committee, Working Groups and Staff Reference Group set up.
5. Staff Reference Group included representatives from all Departments to act as liaison between groups and provide data and advice where necessary.
6. Three working groups were set up including Built Environment Working Group, Natural Environment Working Group and Economic Group. Working groups reviewed SoER, identified existing programs which complement sustaining ethos in cultural environment, natural environment and economic development and urban structure through consultation. Report with recommendations submitted to Steering Group
7. Steering Group refined, collated and edited working group reports.
8. Final report, *Footprints into the Future: Mandurah's Sustainable City Plan* presented to Council for adoption.
9. The Sustainability Plan is being implemented by an internal working group of Councillors and staff. Each member is responsible for overseeing the implementation of those recommendations allocated to their department, and for communicating issues of note to other members of staff. Regular information reports on progress are provided to Council.
10. Footprints into the Future document has been superseded by the City's Community Charter/Strategic Plan 2001-04, which incorporated the principles of People (social), Plant (environmental), Prosperity (economic) and added Planning.
11. The City has completed Milestone 3 of the Cities for Climatic Protection Program.
12. The City is currently negotiating a tender, which is aimed at providing a number of Council facilities with renewable power.

### Practical Initiatives

1. Council's Heritage Inventory has been expanded and updated to reflect more recent decades of the City's development.
2. The Concept Vegetation Plan and Bushland Policy are regularly used in assessing subdivisions.
3. Solar Skyline Policy.
4. Cities for Climate Protection program.
5. Incorporating the principles of LA21 into the City's Community Charter/Strategic Plan.
6. The City has entered into an alliance with our waste collection provider, which will result in cost sharing, thus there is an incentive for both parties to reduce waste to landfill.
7. Establishment of revolving energy fund, whereby financial savings from energy savings will be reinvested in further sustainable measures (to commence in 2002/03 budget).
8. Commitment within the City's Principle Activities Plan for \$300 000 be placed within the City's Sustainability Reserve, to allow for further sustainable principles to be implemented.

### Lessons Learned

#### Opportunities:

1. The opportunity is for councils to utilise the LA21 process to seriously review its philosophical approach to decision making, and as a result to integrate a whole series issues across departments.
2. LA21 provides opportunity for synergies amongst projects which would otherwise not have been possible.

**Concerns:**

1. Serious philosophical reviews are hard work, and not always welcomed by all.
2. LA21 challenges the fundamental assumptions of most professions, in that it asks for inclusive thinking. Most people with traditional academic training understandably find this a difficult transition. It helps to have some empathy and good skills in smoothing over, calming and generally allaying fears raised during such transitions.
3. In short, the ability to recast the idea of LA21 appropriate to who you are dealing with will go a long way to smoothing your path.

**Program Facts and Figures**

1. Staffing: The project has been overseen by the Manager of Development Services and the Environmental Planner.
2. Budget: An annual budget of \$20 000 is set aside for sustainability activities.
3. Key Reports and Documents:
  - State of the Environment Report, 1998.
  - City of Mandurah Community Charter/Strategic Plan 2001-04.
4. Key Contact: Jane O'Malley, Environmental Planner.

## CITY OF NEDLANDS

### Council Profile:

Land Area: 20.6 km<sup>2</sup>  
Budget: \$20.6m  
Population: 21 344

### Brief History

1. At the July 1997 meeting of the City of Nedlands Council it was resolved that Council would “adopt the principles of sustainability as outlined in Local Agenda 21, as guidelines for the planning and policy development of the City”.
2. In late 1997 the Council of the City of Nedlands invited the public to nominate to be on the Local Agenda 21 Steering Committee. The invitation centred on the question- ‘**What is your agenda for the next century?**’ A Steering Committee of interested persons from various pursuits and professions, was subsequently appointed in November 1997.
3. The Steering Committee was established with the purpose to: ***Move the City of Nedlands towards a sustainable future through the Agenda 21 process.*** The committee was, and is, drawn from a spectrum of people knowledgeable in environmental or heritage matters, business and economic activity society, government and community.

The Council established relevant terms of reference under which the Committee was to:

- Advise Council on sustainability issues;
- Advise on a process for community consultation and participation;
- Work with the community to develop a vision, objectives and strategies for sustainability;
- Monitor progress and report back to Council and the community;
- Foster links with kindred groups and interested parties;
- Develop a public education and awareness program, and
- Identify priorities for action and advise on a structure for implementation.

Early in its meetings, the Committee’s attention was drawn to a questionnaire of 1997, circulated by the Council to ratepayers on issues that might be of concern to them. Through that survey process, ten main issues were identified:

- Bushland Preservation • Town Planning Scheme
- Traffic Management • Safety and Security
- Recycling • Groundwater
- Energy Efficient Transport • Arts and Culture
- Self Sufficiency • Major Roads

A seminar; ‘Spreading the Word’, was held in September 1998. The seminar attracted around 70 participants comprising a reasonable cross section of the residents and business community of Nedlands. The outcomes of that seminar formed the basis for the development of the sustainability plan.

Working Groups were then established by the Steering Committee to assist in the development of the Sustainability Plan. The Working Groups were:

- Transport
- Waste Management
- Energy Efficiency
- Community Wellbeing
- Built Environment
- Natural Environment

An initial action plan was formulated, comprising steps to:

- (a) Inform the Nedlands community about Local Agenda 21;
- (b) Examine opportunities to explore, promote or develop:  
energy efficient housing guidelines for Nedlands residences,  
commercial properties and public buildings

- sources of renewable energy, particularly passive solar facilities; and the solar orientation of new buildings and the retrofitting of older housing
- greater awareness and opportunities in recycling, waste management and litter control
- further options in transportation needs and traffic management;
- (c) Examine how these problems could be solved to bring about change and improvement.

In October 2000 the City of Nedlands adopted a Strategic Plan which highlights through its Vision and Key Result Areas the sustainability message. The Vision for the City of Nedlands is;

*“The City of Nedlands will combine in one place the things to which its community aspires; a place where human activities enhance rather than degrade the natural environment; where social diversity and history is a source of strength; where culture and wellbeing is enriched; where the quality of the built environment instils pride; and where citizens are involved in the destiny of their community.”*

The City has continued to focus energy on integrating sustainability principles throughout the organisation its programs and projects and its community.

The City of Nedlands commissioned the preparation of a State of the Environment Report in early 1999. The State of the Environment Report was launched by the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, in October 2001.

The City has recently released a draft Environmental Plan for community input, which encompasses all the City's function from an environmental perspective, assigns priorities and sets a five year timeframe for actions.

### **Practical Initiatives**

1. Waste Awareness Expo – May 30 1999
2. Report of the Built Environment Group and Built Environment Forum
3. Energy Efficient Demonstration House Project
4. Natural Environment Policy Working Group held 3 workshops
5. Draft Environment Plan released for comment
6. Strategic Plan incorporating sustainability principles adopted by Council
7. Cities for Climate Protection – Completion of Milestones 1,2&3
8. Draft Waste Minimisation Strategy prepared
9. Nedlands, Claremont and Cottesloe Councils, together with Department of Transport are jointly funding a full-time TravelSmart Officer to develop transport strategies.
10. The City is working with the Community to develop Sustainability Indicators for annual reporting purposes.
11. The introduction of 240 litre recycling bin services for all City residents.
12. Sustainability assessment of all items going to Council, represented graphically to assist Councillors with decision making.
13. Subsidising of worm farms and cost price compost bins for residents to encourage waste minimisation.
14. Conversion of part of the small vehicle fleet to LPG.
15. Appointment of a permanent Bushcare Officer to manage the City's volunteer bushcare program.
16. The City has joined other Western Suburbs Councils in the Earthcarers program.

## Lessons Learned

### Opportunities

1. The original structure of the Committee and working groups was reviewed in 2001 as the focus shifted to the process of environmental project development. The Committee was renamed the Sustainable Nedlands Committee.
2. Exercises such as the Waste Minimisation Strategy, the Travelsmart program and the CCP program are assisting the City of Nedlands to adopt good environmental policies and practises.

### Concerns

1. Strategic Direction: Whilst the Local Agenda 21 Program has been established through resolutions of the Council, the portfolio is managed by the Environmental Services Directorate. There is a need for cross organisational recognition of Agenda 21 as a corporate program.
3. Economies of Scale: The City of Nedlands is one of the smallest Local Governments (population approximately 21,000) participating in the Local Agenda 21 program. Staff involved in the program and related projects are continually confronted with conflicting demands upon their time and resources. There is some argument that such programs could, and should, be run on a regional basis in the Western Suburbs of Perth.
4. Resourcing: Following on from the above the conflicting demands upon staff time in a small local government such as the City of Nedlands has also made it difficult to gain adequate budgeted funds to progress other than essential projects and programs.

## Program Facts and Figures

### 1. Staffing:

- a) Administrative Responsibility for the Sustainable Nedlands Committee rests with the Environmental Services Directorate - One Manager (0.1FTE), one Secretary (0.1FTE),
- b) Staff from various Directorates attend Administrative Liaison Working Groups on specific projects. Existing staff maintain the CCP database and assist in coordinating and running the Travelsmart program.

The aim for the City with respect to staffing is to ensure that staff in all Directorate are pursuing sustainability for the community in all projects and programmes.

### 2. Budget:

Actual Initiatives Budget 2001/02 = \$10,000. All staff costs are in kind within existing operating budgets and actual costs are not known.

### 3. Key Reports/Documents:

- a) Plan of Action for a Sustainable Future, April 1999
- b) Report of the Built Environment Working Group, June 1999
- c) Waste Minimisation Discussion Paper, January 2000
- d) City of Nedlands Draft Natural Environment Policy, March 2000
- e) City of Nedlands Strategic Plan
- f) City of Nedlands State of the Environment Report 2000
- g) City of Nedlands Draft Environmental Plan 2002
- h) CCP Action Plan - Milestone 3
- i) Municipal Heritage Inventory
- j) Bushland Management Plans

### 4. Key Contact Persons:

Administration -

Mr Phil Swain

Manager Health Services

City of Nedlands

Tel. (08) 9442 3526

Steering Committee -

Mr Colin Sanders

Presiding Member

City of Nedlands

Te l. (08) 9386 3038

# City of Stirling

## Council Profile

Land area: 100 km<sup>2</sup>  
Budget: \$46,000,000  
Population: 174,100

## Brief History

1. June 1997: A representative of the City's Planning Department attended the "Pathways to Sustainability" conference in Newcastle. This was followed by the establishment of an inter-departmental Sustainability Working Group within the City of Stirling.
2. August 1997: An Integrated Environmental Management Plan, outlining nine key environmental policy areas, was endorsed by Council, to be progressed by the City's Parks and Reserves Division.
3. December 1997: Council resolved to support the preparation of a Local Agenda 21 for the City of Stirling. The Sustainability Working Group commenced an audit of the City's operations as a step towards developing a process for progressing Local Agenda 21.
4. Jan - June 1998: The audit was carried out through a participatory process of reporting from each key activity area and interviews with all operational managers. The audit revealed a large number of previous initiatives in environmental and bushland management (see below). A series of workshops with the City's departments were held to induct staff into the Integrated Environmental Management Plan.
5. August 1998: A Sustainability Action Plan, consisting of seven environmental, social and economic objectives and a twelve month pilot strategy, was adopted by Council. A number of projects have already commenced.
6. September 1998: The Planning Committee endorsed a communications program to promote the Local Agenda 21 process and provide information on sustainability issues.
7. July 1999: A City restructure established the position of Manager Corporate Projects to coordinate inter-departmental initiatives. Local Agenda 21 was allocated to this position to ensure an integrated approach.
8. 2000-2001: Further community education through a number of projects, collection of "State of the Environment" data, review of initiatives to date, and development of a Local Agenda 21.

## Recent Initiatives

- July 2000: The City commits to an annual review of the LA21 program and a focus on individual departments activities in regards to the current LA21 activities. The Henderson Environment Centre at Star Swamp is officially opened, and the City continues with the preparation, review and completion of various open space and wetland management plans, including the City's Green Plan.
- November 2000. Completion of the Balga Westminster Cultural Planning project, and subsequent tabling of final report with recommendations to Council.
- September 2001. The City's various natural environment 'Friends Of' and Community based committees are amalgamated to form a single Natural Environment Advisory

Committee, in order to provide a consistent committee to advise the City on matters pertaining to the conservation and management of natural areas.

- In November 2001, Council endorsed the draft Transport Issues Paper for the purposes of public advertising. The Transport Issue Paper aims to identify transport issues affecting the City of Stirling and to review the role of the City of Stirling in transport planning. Council adopted and endorsed the issues paper and subsequent recommendations in April 2002.
- On 16 November 2001 the City of Stirling began recycling the contents of every household bin put out for disposal by its 77,000 households. This represented one the major steps forward in the recovery of recyclables from the waste stream. Atlas, a Western Australian company, designed the materials recovery facility. It represents world's best practice and can sort a mixture of household discards to recover organics (food, garden waste, and all paper), glass and plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans. The process is designed to keep all of the materials intact except the organic component. Recent audited results indicate that the plant will recover for recycling in the order of 70% of the waste input. By removing the need for householders to sort their domestic waste stream in to two or more streams and using a factory to sort the waste in to six waste streams, every resident in the City of Stirling now recycles at the highest level with just one bin per household.
- January / February 2002. The position of Manager Corporate Projects to coordinate interdepartmental initiatives such as LA21, becomes inoperative, and the City's new CEO, Lindsay Delahaunty is appointed.
- March 2002. The City makes an extensive submission on the State Sustainability Strategy.
- April 2002. The City completes Milestone 2 of the CCP program, the setting of corporate and community greenhouse gas reduction goals by 2010.
- April 2002. The City's sustainability working group regroup to discuss ways in which to progress the Local Agenda 21 program within the City of Stirling as a result of the loss of the Manager Corporate Projects position. Various programs are being investigated, including incorporating sustainability objectives in project assessment criteria. The working group will also discuss the future position of the LA21 program in terms of coordination across the City and promotion within the community.
- February 2002. Commencement of the review of the City's Municipal Inventory.
- March 2002. A draft 'Energy Efficient Building Design Policy' is submitted to Council for endorsement to advertise.
- 2001-2002. Various community events are regularly undertaken by the City of Stirling including the Stirling Multicultural Family Festival, Youth Festival, Jazz Festival, Children's Festival etc

### **Lessons Learnt**

- Growing community awareness of sustainability issues as a result of media, educational facilities and State and Federal government initiatives is raising expectations in the community for local authorities to be proactive and high profile in this area.
- There is some confusion over the interpretation and expression of sustainability objectives into practical measures, both from within the community and at a Council level.
- There is difficulty in implementing an LA21 program across a large organisation without a dedicated officer to coordinate of such a broad based program, retain momentum, staff



awareness and implement new and timely initiatives as opportunities they present themselves.

- The need to develop baseline data for future benchmarks and performance indicators to allow program monitoring and review is essential.

## **Program Fact & Figures**

### ***Staffing***

There has been no formal staffing allocating for LA21, and particularly now the Corporate Projects is no longer operational, the City is now in a timely position to review the status and future of this program across the City. In the mean time, implementation of specific LA21 objectives will continue thorough individual departments;

- Recreation & Reserves (coordination of environmental management)
- Planning (development of related policies and District Planning Scheme)
- Human Services (implementation of community services and development projects)

A key future goal of the Sustainability Working Group is the inclusion of sustainability objectives into decision making processes and the greater awareness and involvement of all departments within the City's LA21 program.

### ***Budget***

Individual departments are responsible for their own budgets. Council operations such as reserves management, waste management, community services, health services etc are examples of individual department operations which fall within the LA21 banner.

An separate budget of \$2,000 has been allocated for the 2002-2003 financial year for the purposes of consultation and promotion of the City's LA21 program.

### ***Key Contact People***

Trina Anderson  
Projects Planner  
Tel. (08) 9345 8700

Daniel Rajah  
Environmental /Conservation Officer  
Tel. (08) 9345 8660

## **City of Subiaco**

### **Council Profile:**

Land Area: 7.1 km<sup>2</sup>

Budget: \$12 210 336

Population: 15 076

### ***Brief History***

1. **April 1998:** LA21 Steering Committee formed, included councillors, staff and community members.
2. **Mid-1998:** System of reusing and recycling paper in Council offices implemented by Trevor Messenger. LA21 Reference List compilation initiated State of Environment Report for Subiaco initiated. LA21 members and staff attended Mandurah's 1998 LA21 conference.
3. **July 1998:** An all day workshop with guest speaker, Clare Walsh from WAMA, brainstormed a mission, vision statements and issues that LA21 could cover.
4. **October 1998:** LA21 logo design competition. However, it was a difficult time for schools to become involved and the response was poor. It has now been decided to adopt the International LA21 symbol. LA21 members split into three working groups (retaining a steering committee). The committees were 'sustainable environment', 'sustainable communities' and 'sustainable activities'. The groups brainstormed many good ideas, but disbanded at the end of 1998 as it was difficult to prioritise and follow through the number of ideas.
5. **November 1998:** LA21 members participated in the City's cultural planning workshops
6. **December 1998:** Workshop with Geoff Morris on energy efficient homes.
7. **February 1999:** TravelSmart transport awareness program, a Department of Transport program, forms working group, including LA21 members, to focus on Subiaco transport issues.
8. **March 1999:** LA21 committee submission to Town Planning Scheme. LA21 members and staff attended Mandurah's LA21 conference. Subiaco joined the Cities of Climate Protection Program which helps local governments calculate their greenhouse gas contributions and identify where savings can be made. First milestone in the program, an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions in Subiaco to be completed by July 1999.
9. **April 1999:** TravelSmart transport use in Subiaco survey results completed.
10. **May 1999:** An information sharing meeting with Nedlands LA21 members. Travel Smart display in Subiaco library. Report to Council examining environmentally friendly dwellings. Wording of Vision and Mission statement finalised. LA21 Planning Session with Alistair Reid. Full page Advertorial in Subiaco Post on LA21. LA21 Reference list compiled.
11. **June 1999:** Draft Local Access Map (TravelSmart) identifying cycling, walking and public transport routes in draft form. TravelSmart Draft Local Action Plan completed. Currently waiting for comments and feedback from various parties. Rewording of 'old growth forest timbers' policy. Wording finalised and report to go to Council in August 99'. Feedback on outcomes of cultural planning process - Rob Finlayson. LA21/sustainability survey to attain Council's staff knowledge of sustainability. Council Strategic Plan - to promote sustainability through all our policies and activities. State of Environment Report completed
12. **August 1999:** Environmental Management System initiated – Murdoch University
13. **September 1999:** Environmental Plan initiated – consultants Chambers and Galloway
14. **November 1999:** Draft Environmental Plan presented to LA21 Committee for comment and public consultation
15. **January 2000:** LA21 information brochure prepared for insertion into Council Community Information package.
16. **February 2000:** Community workshop for Environment Plan. Approximately 40 people attended with many positive comments about the plan. Most people concerned with the natural environment.
17. **March 2000:** Draft Environment Plan re-drafted to include community comments.

18. **April 2000:** Environmental Management System received for comment from Murdoch University. Launch of TravelSmart Action plan, Community Facilities Guide and Subiaco Primary School Safe Routes to School.
19. **May 2000:** Draft Environment plan to be submitted to the General Services Committee and then full Council in order for Council to formally adopt the plan.
20. **June 2000:** Draft Environment plan accepted by Council and formally adopted. The plan is to be launched at a special function in November 2000 Subiaco CAT/shuttlebus planned to connect the Subiaco CBD, hospitals, University and train station, and to connect Subiaco with West Perth and Perth. Grant received from Department of Transport to fund a TravelSmart Officer to progress the TravelSmart Action Plan.
21. A regular column in the Post Newspaper has been negotiated with articles being prepared by Subiaco, Nedlands and Cottesloe Councils. This has been coordinated by Cr Suzanne Fielding (City of Nedlands) for the Western Suburbs Region.
22. **July 2000:** Employment of a part-time TravelSmart Officer to implement the TravelSmart Action Plan. Funding provided for 2 years.
23. "The Environmental Plan" launched in **December 2000**. Action plan contains 142 Actions across 13 Action Areas. This report will direct the push towards sustainability at the City in coming years.
24. LA21 Committee renamed "Sustainable Development Advisory Committee" to reflect the group's role in implementing the Environmental Plan.
25. **March 2001.** City awarded CCP Milestone 3 award for development of Greenhouse Action Plan, as a sub-plan of The Environmental Plan.
26. **September 2001.** City employ's first dedicated Environmental Project Officer to Coordinate implementation of The Environmental Plan and other environmental and sustainability projects.

## PRACTICAL INITIATIVES

1. LA21 Steering Committee and working groups formed
2. Subiaco State of the Environment Report
3. Joined TravelSmart Transport Awareness Program
  - Subiaco Transport Use Survey
  - Local Access Map
  - TravelSmart Local Action Plan
4. Joined Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program
5. Report on environmentally friendly dwellings
6. LA21 Reference List
7. Sustainability principles incorporated into Council's Strategic Plan
8. Environmental Management System initiated
9. Environment Plan developed
10. January 2001. Subiaco Shuttle launched. This high frequency shuttle bus links Subiaco Station to the University of Western Australia via Subiaco's commercial centre, two major hospitals and local shopping areas.
11. June 2001. Energy Audit undertaken on all Council buildings, and action plan for improvements developed (90% complete by December 2001).
12. October 2001. Through the Western Suburb's Regional Organisation of Councils (WESROC), Subiaco hosts Earth Carers project manager, to coordinate waste minimisation, recycling and green waste management (composting and wormfarms) in the Western Suburbs.
13. November 2001. Council commits to a major community education project, the Subiaco Sustainable Demonstration Home. In partnership with SEDO, HIA and Murdoch University, this home will be open for display for 2 years in a new Subiaco Centro display Village, and will demonstrate energy efficient building design and sustainable household products.
14. **Ideas for Future Initiatives:** At this stage, all future initiatives are as detailed in The Environmental Plan, Subiaco TravelSmart Action Plan and Greenhouse Action Plan. However,

these may be added to as the various plans are reviewed, or particular opportunities arise. Key possibilities include: Perth – Subiaco shuttle service; Community sustainability education project; Energy efficient design policy; ICLEI Water Campaign.

15. **Related Council activities:** Many council activities were not directly linked to the LA21 program however they are part of the LA21 philosophy of environmental, economic and socially sustainability. These include:

- aboriginal reconciliation
- community cultural planning
- supporting a youth network and advisory service
- completing an inventory of heritage sites
- waste minimisation, green waste removal and kerbside recycling
- programs and initiatives to use water efficiently.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- 1: Whilst the LA21 Steering Committee and Working Groups initially brainstormed many good ideas it disbanded at the end of 1998 as it was difficult to prioritise and follow through the number of ideas. It seems the groups were set up too early in the process and that the understanding of LA21 wasn't well developed. The Working group approach may be a useful direction once LA21 becomes more established.

**2: Coordinated implementation of Environmental Plan requires dedicated Environmental Project Officer, and the continued support of all administrative departments.**

**3: Sustainable Development Advisory Committee needs clear goals, and an agreed method of linking in to Council Activities, otherwise frustration arises from both sides. Subiaco's SDAC is soon to reconvene along such lines.**

## FACTS AND FIGURES

1. Staff resources:
  - 1 x 1.0 FTE (Environmental Project Officer)
  - 1 x 0.6 FTE (Environmental Officer – TravelSmart)
2. Key Reports:
  - The Environmental Plan
  - TravelSmart Action Plan
  - Greenhouse Action Plan
3. Key Contacts:

### **Geoff Glass – Director Development Services**

Matt Buckels – Environmental Projects Officer

Robyn O'Grady – Environmental Officer (TravelSmart)

## State / Local Government Sustainability Framework

Goal	Objectives	Performance Indicators	Risks
State and Local Government acting in unison to realise a sustainable future for the Western Australian community	5. Integrated State / Local Govt approaches to Sustainability	Coordinating body established and operational with clear mandate, agenda and lines of communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of authority / influence of coordinating body</li> </ul>
	6. Institutional accountability for Sustainability	State & LG organisations with Sustainability focus, vision, mission & culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to change priorities and culture</li> </ul>
	7. Alignment of State and Local Government Policy / Processes with Sustainability Principles	Development and implementation of Activity programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poorly designed programmes</li> <li>• Lack of resources for implementation</li> </ul>
	8. Common State / LG Sustainability methodologies & resources	Processes and tools developed and implemented in State & LG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate resources</li> <li>• Inadequate take-up</li> </ul>

Outputs	Activities	Performance Indicators *	Risks *
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**Objective 1: Integrated State / Local Govt approaches to Sustainability**

Joint State / Local Government action to advance sustainability in WA	State / Local Partnership		
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**Objective 2: Institutional Accountability for Sustainability**

Focussing leadership & resourcing towards sustainable practice	Governance		
Aligning our institutions to promote sustainability	Institutional Arrangements		
Developing a sustainability culture	Organisational Culture		
Getting the message across	Communications		

**Objective 3: Alignment of State and Local Government Policy / Processes with Sustainability Principles**

Greening the Built Environment	Planning / Building		
Connecting people with decisions that affect them	Community		
Aligning programmes with sustainability needs	R&D, Education & Training		
Minimising emissions, improving accessibility	Transport		
Restoring & protecting ecological integrity	Natural Resource Management		
Reducing, re-using and recycling waste	Waste Management		

**Objective 4: Common State / LG Sustainability methodologies & resources**

Balancing social, environmental & economic imperatives	Decision making		
Assisting people to deliver sustainable outcomes	Sustainability Tools		

\* to be completed by the LG Sustainability Roundtable

# Partnership for Sustainability

Between WA Local Government Association on behalf of  
Western Australian Local Governments and the Premier,  
State Government of Western Australia

## (DRAFT) HEADS OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

### 1. Primary Aim

To develop and implement a Common Sustainability Framework between the State Government of Western Australia and Western Australian Local Governments, that efficiently and effectively advances sustainability in Western Australia.

### 2. Objectives

- To develop a communication framework between Local Government and relevant State Government Departments that facilitates the implementation of respective sustainability objectives;
- To identify State and Local Government policies, legislation and activities that assist or inhibit the achievement of sustainability in Western Australia;
- To develop State and Local Government policies, legislation or activities that facilitate sustainability;
- Where appropriate, State Government to provide resources to Local Government to assist in the planning and implementation of sustainability; and
- For Local Government to assist in the development of an integrated State Sustainability Strategy.

### 3. Elements of the Partnership

#### 3.1 Local Government Sustainability Advisory Council (LGSAC)

State Government and WALGA will establish the Local Government Sustainability Advisory Council (LGSAC), comprising State and Local Government officers. The LGSAC will:

- Be the primary forum for environment and sustainability issues for WA State and Local Government.
- Have issues referred to it from the feed policy recommendations to State Government Departments, Sustainability Unit of Department of Premier and Cabinet, WALGA, and individual Local Governments.
- Raise the profile of sustainability initiatives within Local Government by promoting and supporting key programs.
- Identify and pursue appropriate institutional and legislative arrangement of sustainability within Local Government.
- Prepare annual reports on the implementation of the Partnership Agreement, noting where improvements are needed and suggesting how the implementation should be adjusted.

#### 3.2 Local Government Sustainability Coordinator

State Government will fund a Local Government Sustainability Coordinator to manage the work of LGSAC, and to liaise with the Sustainability Unit of Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Environment Resource Officer at WALGA. The LG Sustainability Coordinator will:

- Be responsible to LGSAC.
- Provide an ongoing link between State Government Agencies and Local Government.
- As a conduit between State Government policies and programs, assist Local Government's increase their capacity to address sustainability.
- Liaise and negotiate between Local Government and State and Federal Government agencies and non-government organisations to secure resources for the development of sustainable planning and management.

- Work with both State and Local Government to share information and develop policy advice.

#### 4. Interim Arrangements

A Local Government Sustainability Roundtable (LGSR) will function as the interim LGSAC for the development of the State Sustainability Strategy, and will be responsible for the development of a more detailed Partnership Agreement incorporating the Common Sustainability Framework to be established as a component of the State Sustainability Strategy.

The membership of the LGSR will be determined by consultation between the Parties.

The LGSR will develop draft proposals and an implementation plan for LGSAC during the currency of State Strategy development.

State Government will provide interim funding (equivalent to the costs of the proposed LFG Sustainability O\Coordinator) for the resources necessary to manager and coordinate the work of the interim LGSAC.

Dr Geoff Gallop, Premier  
State Government of Western Australia  
Date:

Cr Ian Mickel, President  
WA Local Government Association  
Date: