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SUBMISSION ON DRAFT STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Population and Climate Change

This document is a farce. The key issues immigration and rapid population growth (p75) in Western Australia are completely ignored and climate change received scant attention. The fact that Australians produce more than 27 tonnes of CO² per head, the highest in the world was not even mentioned. India uses less than one tonne of CO² per head (Clive Hamilton Running from the Storm).

No Action Needed

This document requires the State Labor Government to do nothing and continue in the same direction as the previous government with their mania for rapid industrial growth and population growth which will exacerbate the effects of climate change. The Government's Climate change policy is a disgrace being identical to Federal Government and state opposition. No action is being taken. David Suzuki said recently that Australia is on a suicide course.

The State Government has almost ignored environmental concerns. A long list of environmental legislation is waiting for ratification. There is no sense of urgency (p154).

The disregard for climate change can be seen by the array of coal and gas power stations planned for the future. It is a disgrace. Very little effort has been made to promote renewable energy such as wind, solar, and voltaic cells. The Greens (WA) demand that 20 per of energy be produced from renewable energy immediately.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity has received scant attention (1950 Act). The protection of fauna habitat is almost nonexistent. Over the past 50 years, weeds have been allowed to spread throughout bushland degrading the environment and it has been left to volunteers to control them. Weeds have a very serious effect on the preservation of flora and fauna especially, in remnant bushland. Weeds cause hot fires killing trees and other plants and this encourage more weeds. It is a disgrace that the Government has not yet adopted in 1999 Draft State Weed Plan.

Hot fires have a devastating effect on fauna on the Swan Coastal Plain. With the scorched earth, predators such as cats, foxes, and ravens decimate the surviving fauna which has almost no protection. The Government has not even made appointments for the Urban Bushland Advisory Service.

The document does not highlight the severity of the water crisis, salinity where a third of agricultural land is due to become saline, the serious lack of sustainable agriculture, and fisheries is under pressure from rapidly increasing population. Another important issue is the huge amount of energy wasted through unsustainable housing with their black rooves and no eaves and absence of native garden.

Curbing population growth and climate change are the two issues which demand urgent action if we are to reverse the current trends.

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