

Sustainability Policy Unit  
Department of Premier & Cabinet  
197 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Sir/Madam

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE – THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE  
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT

The Bunbury Port Authority would like to commend Government on preparing such a comprehensive document, which is a valuable framework to guide sustainable development and growth of the State into the future.

Comments relating to the sustainability strategy are as follows;

1. The strategy identifies a large number of actions, which I understand are not in priority order. It is our view that it is critical for these actions to be prioritised into those that can be undertaken now and those that can be timetabled into the future.  
Strategies that can be actioned immediately should proceed as these will provide a good basis for demonstrating the progress that has been made.
2. The sustainability strategy does not make any reference to the avoidance of duplication or making greater use of existing infrastructure. I make this comment in particular in relation to the regions where the opportunity may exist to defer expenditure in the capital cities through greater utilisation of regional assets.  
As you will be aware cities choke because more and more demand is placed on less available area. By sharing the load with regions development and quality of life WA citizens can be improved
3. The world in which we live in has changed significantly since September 22, 2001. It is critical that any sustainability strategy provides for alternatives. In this respect the transition from carbon fuels to gas could make the State vulnerable and bring it to a standstill, should the Dampier to Bunbury gas pipeline be subject to terrorist activity. The Lonsdale gas explosion in Victoria demonstrates the impacts if relevance is solely on one source of supply.

This argument also extends to port facilities where currently Fremantle is the only port capable of handling containers. If a terrorist activity takes place in Fremantle and blocks the channel, Western Australia would currently not have an alternative Port for container imports and exports. It is critical that alternate facilities are made available which have a low probability of risk.

4. There has been recent media articles regarding the air quality around Kwinana, sustainability needs to reflect decentralisation of major industries to the region to assist with the development and growth of these areas.
5. By this nature the sustainability strategy will inevitably result in conflict. The difficulty is perceived in evaluating the conflict to assess, that which has the greatest priority. While this matter is mentioned it is highly unlikely that a pre determined method or formula can be applied as there will be many variables in each case.
6. It is important that once the sustainability strategy is implemented that it is progressed in a manner, which does not add another layer of approvals in the process, which is already time consuming and cumbersome. As evidenced in the Keating review, the sustainability strategy must be efficient and effective and enhance existing processes and procedures.

I trust that the above comments are of some assistance in progressing the sustainability strategy and please contact me at your convenience if you wish to discuss my comments further.

Yours sincerely

C. Figliomeni  
Chief Executive Officer

22 November, 2002