



City of Joondalup



The City of Joondalup's Submission on “Focus on the Future, The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy, Consultation Draft”

CONTENTS

1. Executive Summary.....	2
2. Council Resolution.....	2
3. Background.....	2
4. Sustainability initiatives at Joondalup win Local Government Best Practice Award.....	4
5. Statement of the City's support regarding the draft State Sustainability Strategy.....	5
6. Specific comments	6
7. Opportunities presented to the City of Joondalup by the draft sustainability strategy.....	7
8. The City of Joondalup Strategic Plan.....	8
9. References.....	9

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the City of Joondalup submission on the State Government's draft sustainability strategy "*Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy: Consultation draft*". The draft strategy was released by the Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA, Premier of Western Australia, for a four-month public comment (closing 10 January 2003). The submission is based on the City's innovative sustainability initiatives, recognised as best practice via the 2002 WALGA awards. The City's submission provides comments on the 230 page draft State sustainability strategy, which includes 248 proposed action item. The City of Joondalup Council, at its meeting held on 5 November 2002, endorsed the City to develop a submission on the draft Sustainability Strategy.

2. COUNCIL RESOLUTION

The City of Joondalup Council, at its meeting held on 17 December 2002, made the following resolutions in relation to the City's submission on the State Sustainability Strategy (refer to Council report CJ311-12/02);

That Council:

- 1. ENDORSES the City of Joondalup submission on the State Government's draft Sustainability Strategy "Focus on the Future, The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy, Consultation Draft";**
- 2. FORWARDS the submission to the Department of Premier and Cabinet by the close of the public consultation period (10 January 2003) and THANKS the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Sustainability Policy Unit) for the opportunity to provide the submission;**
- 3. FORWARDS the submission to the Western Australian Local Government Association for information;**
- 4. LIAISES with the Department of Premier and Cabinet regarding the City's Best Practice Innovation award "The City of Joondalup's Approach Towards a Sustainable Future by Council Leadership, Education and Participation", to ensure that the City's sustainability initiatives are recognised by the State Government and that opportunities for collaborative sustainability initiatives are investigated.**

3. BACKGROUND

Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA, Premier of Western Australia, released *Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy: Consultation draft* on Friday 13 September for a four month public consultation period. The draft document is available on the web at:

http://www.sustainability.dpc.wa.gov.au/docs/Draft_Strategy.htm

Sustainability for the purpose of the Strategy is defined as: "... the simultaneous achievement of environmental, economic and social goals." Development of the strategy is being co-ordinated by the Sustainability Policy Unit (SPU) from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The draft sustainability strategy contains 248 proposed action items and covers a diverse range of environmental, social, economic and governance sustainability issues. Many of the proposed actions relate to Local Government activities.

Key proposed action items include the proposal to develop a Global Centre for Sustainability, facilitating nature based recreation and tourism, State and Local Government Sustainability Partnership Agreements, internet based “one stop sustainability shop”, and a communication strategy and public consultation.

The State Government’s draft sustainability strategy has been developed based on the State’s consultation paper and the extensive public input which was received during the public comment period. In December 2001, the Sustainability Policy Unit released a consultation paper entitled “*Focus on the Future: Opportunities for Sustainability in Western Australia*”, and written submissions on the consultation paper were invited. Council endorsed the City’s submission on the State Government’s consultation paper, as part of the development of the “Focus on the Future” sustainability strategy. The City of Joondalup Council, at its meeting held on 9 April 2002, made the following resolutions;

That Council:

- 1. ENDORSES the City of Joondalup’s submission on the State Government’s proposed Sustainability Strategy as shown at Attachment 1 to Report CJ077-04/02;**
- 2. FORWARDS the submission to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Sustainability Policy Unit) and THANKS the Department of Premier and Cabinet (Sustainability Policy Unit) for the opportunity to provide the submission;**
- 3. INVITES representatives from the Sustainability Policy Unit to brief Council on the development of the State Government’s Sustainability Strategy; and**
- 4. NOTES that the submission is for discussion purposes only and in no way binds or influences future Council decision-making with regard to social, environmental and economic planning.**

(Refer to Council report CJ077 – 04/02.)

The City’s submission on the consultation paper is available at:

http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au/BUOrgnStrategic/sustainability/revised/living_services_sustainability_statestrategy.asp

The City of Joondalup Council, at its meeting held on 5 November 2002, endorsed the City to develop a submission on the draft Sustainability Strategy. The following submission has been prepared in response to the State Government invitation to comment on the draft document and has been developed by City of Joondalup staff.

The City of Joondalup submission is issued to:

Professor Peter Newman
Director, Sustainability Policy Unit
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
197 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Copies of the City of Joondalup submission are also issued to:

- Western Australian Local Government Association
15 Altona Street, West Perth, 6005
- City of Joondalup sustainability web site,
<http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au>

4. SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES AT JOONDALUP WIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEST PRACTICE AWARD

The City of Joondalup has a substantial role to play in promoting and facilitating sustainable development and sustainability initiatives. As the second largest local government authority in Western Australia, it represents approximately 161,000 residents and comprises 11% of the Perth's metropolitan area population. The City of Joondalup continues to strengthen its role in facilitating the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the City and providing leadership on sustainable development and sustainability issues.

The City of Joondalup has won a Best Practice in Local Government award at the 2002 Western Australian Local Government Awards. The City's winning entry was for the achievement of best practice in innovation, with its submission entitled:

“The City of Joondalup's Approach Towards a Sustainable Future by Council Leadership, Education and Participation”.

The nomination highlighted the City's approach towards developing a sustainable future, including several innovative sustainability initiatives which are building the community's capacity to address sustainability issues. The City's submission highlighted the key goal of sustainable development which is to achieve outcomes that are economically viable, environmentally responsible and socially sound. The City's sustainability initiatives include:

- Submission to the WA State Sustainability Strategy
- Environmental, Social and Economic Sustainability Policy
- Community Funding; Environmental and Sustainable Development Fund
- Adoption of corporate and community greenhouse gas emission reduction targets
- Sustainability Education and Promotions
- 2002 Environmental Challenge School Programme
- World Environment Day Celebrations
- “Envirocare” information brochures
- Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee
- Sustainability Web Site
- Earth Charter and the Strategic Planning Process
- Cities for Climate Protection Program
- Sustainability Publications

The innovation category was particularly competitive, with 67 nominations received and several Councils winning best practice awards.

The award was accepted on behalf of the City by the Chairperson of the Environmental and Sustainability Advisory Committee, Cr John Hollywood, and Sustainable Development Officer John Goldsmith. The Best Practice award recognises the overall achievement of the City's approach towards sustainability, based on the innovative sustainability achievements of business units including Strategic and Corporate Planning, Community Development Services, Operations Services, Health and Environmental Services, Information Management, Infrastructure Management Services, and Approvals Planning and Environmental Services.

Mr Goldsmith presented highlights of the City's sustainability initiatives at the Indopacific Ecosystem Health Conference, held at Edith Cowan University, Joondalup, 24-27 November 2002. Further information on the conference is available at http://www.chs.ecu.edu.au/research/ceh/conference_2002/

5. STATEMENT OF THE CITY'S SUPPORT REGARDING THE DRAFT STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY.

The City of Joondalup strongly supports State Government initiatives that enhance environmental, social and economic sustainability within Western Australia, and the consultation process for the development of the State's Sustainability Strategy.

The City of Joondalup strongly supports appropriate State Government sustainability initiatives including:

- Political leadership and support.
- Action on the part of State Government to enhance sustainability.
- Provision of appropriate funding.
- Communication and community education.
- Improved co-ordination between State Government Agencies.
- Development and implementation of relevant laws and legal mechanisms to enhance environmental, social and environmental sustainability.

The City of Joondalup supports proactive action to promote sustainability initiatives in all spheres of society and government (ie. Local, State, National and International). In particular, the City will strongly support incentives and resources for such action where it is placed at a community level.

The City of Joondalup supports the State in taking a leadership role to ensure that sustainability initiatives will include economic, environmental and social sustainability.

The City of Joondalup supports the uses of simple, meaningful and easy to understand programme titles, which support sustainability initiatives.

6. SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Section 1, Introduction

It was interesting to note that the focus on measurement of performance vis a vis sustainability immediately highlighted environmental matters.

Introduce annual environmental performance reporting requirements for all government agencies in areas such as energy consumption, waste disposal, vehicle fuel efficiency and recycling. Introduction Page 16.

Whilst it is appreciated that this statement has been cited from environmental policy documents, it is important that work be done to identify similar performance measures for social and economic aspects of sustainability. There is a perception that sustainability is overwhelmingly focused on matters environmental.

Section 5, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

A quantitative assessment is needed to assist in determining the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives, and to provide a target for what is deemed “sustainable”. State of the Environment reporting and sustainability indicators are therefore a high priority. The draft strategy needs to give some guidance to define the end point by which sustainability is achieved. It is important that the document tries to be more finite, and that clearly defined goals be included. Monitoring and auditing of the strategy implementation is important, to enable an assessment of the effectiveness of strategy implementation to be made.

The importance of community attitude, acceptance and community culture is recognised as being very important to foster community engagement, to promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

Section 6, Sustainability and Settlements

- F i g u re 5, Page 132. Extended metabolism model of human settlements.

In this diagram mention is made of “cultural priorities” under the “dynamics of settlements” section. What does this mean? Does it relate to social priorities and “cultural” is used as a catchall term?

- *Create a sustainable balance of employment, transport, housing choice and community development by managing urban and regional growth, including population change, through better urban structure. Page.135, Sustainability and Settlements.*

How can government manage population change? Other aspects of what can be done about managing urban and regional growth, urban structures are detailed. What is meant by this statement?

Section 7, Sustainability and Community

This section is well articulated, firmly prioritizing human needs overall. Given that this is the case, it would seem appropriate to have placed this section ahead of the others in the document. Regional planning that breaks down the silos between various government departments – education, justice etc is a laudable strategy.

The City of Joondalup has extensive experience in Community Education programmes, based on input from specialist staff at the City of Joondalup with knowledge on sustainability issues. Community Education need not be limited to schools. Many local community groups are interested in guest speakers addressing them on various topics and matters that affect them in their communities. Such education may give rise to locally based community driven projects.

By bringing sustainability to local communities, translating it into local matters, people will be more engaged in the process of developing their own homes, their own communities in ways that support sustainability.

7. OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF JOONDALUP BY THE DRAFT SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

“Focus on the Future” contains 248 proposed action items. A preliminary review of proposed action items which relate to the City are summarised below. Comments regarding opportunities for the City are shown in **bold text**.

Action 1.8 Establish a partnership with local government (via WALGA) to create a State-Local Government Common Sustainability framework.

Action 1.9 Support a State-Local Government Roundtable to create a partnership agreement and its implications for local government sustainability. **COMMENT: The City has taken a lead role in the WALGA Sustainable Development Advisory Group and is well placed to contribute towards a State-Local partnership.**

Action 1.25 Assist in the development of the Global Centre for Sustainability as a partnership for sustainability research and development in Western Australia. **COMMENT: This action item represents a major development opportunity and represents a high profile, international educational and research centre. There may be opportunities to locate the Global Centre within the learning precinct in the City of Joondalup.**

Action 1.29 Work to establish Sustainability Online to deliver the governments commitment to establish a “one stop shop” for sustainability information. **NOTE: The City of Joondalup has already produced an Internet guide to sustainability resources entitled “Sustainability Online”, which is available on the City’s web site at <http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au>**

Action 2.1 Help create the Global Centre for Sustainability to bring Western Australian expertise into global development projects through a partnership between the five universities, TAFE, CSIRO, industry research and development and government agency research and development in sustainability. **COMMENT: refer to action item 1.25.**

Action 3.3 ...meaningfully involve local government in issues of agricultural sustainability...

Action 3.32 Facilitate nature based recreation and tourism in Western Australia. **COMMENT: This action item is highly consistent with existing nature based tourism within the City, such as the Aquarium of Western Australia (AQWA), and opportunities relating to the Yellagonga regional Park.**

Action 3.33 Develop cultural tourism opportunities through the Western Australian Tourism Commissions Sustainable Product Development Unit. **COMMENT, as above.**

Action 4.7 Develop a “Reviving the Suburbs” initiative...

Action 4.8 Trial “Reviving the Suburbs” in partnership with local government.

Action 4.46 Require all Regional Organisations of Councils, or Local Government Authorities, to prepare waste management plans. **COMMENT: The City’s role in waste management and existing waste management planning could be showcased as an example of Council leadership.**

Action 5.2 Facilitate local community involvement in defining community services needs thereby creating engagement with local issues and the inspiration and energy to solve them. **COMMENT: Of significance and relates to the City’s development of community consultation guidelines.**

Action 5.3 Use the Consulting Citizens Resource Guide to promote effective public consultation and active citizenship. **COMMENT: As above.**

Action 5.18 Develop a comprehensive communications strategy on sustainability in the implementation phase of the State Sustainability Strategy which includes all aspects of formal and informal education.

Action 6.15 Provide a central information hub with information on sustainable technologies and business solutions on the Sustainability Online web site... **NOTE: The City of Joondalup sustainability web site is one of the most advanced Local Government sustainability web sites and provides opportunities to the City in relation to this action item. The City’s sustainability web site can be accessed via the sustainability quick link at <http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au>**

8. THE CITY OF JOONDALUP STRATEGIC PLAN

The City of Joondalup has recently undertaken a review of its strategic plan. The draft strategic plan is at its public consultation stage. Sustainability is being recognised as one of the central elements of the City’s draft strategic plan. The City’s vision as described in the draft strategic plan is:

“A sustainable community and City that is recognised as unique and diverse.”

All four key themes of the draft strategic plan incorporate sustainability in their delivery. The four themes are:

- (1) social wellbeing,
- (2) caring for the environment,
- (3) city development, and
- (4) leadership and organisational development.

9. REFERENCES

City of Joondalup (2002) “Submission on the Western Australian State Government’s Proposed Sustainability Strategy” available on the web at

http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au/BUOrgnStrategic/sustainability/State_submission.pdf

City of Joondalup (2002) “Progress Towards Achieving a Sustainable Future”, available on the web at http://living.joondalup.wa.gov.au/BUOrgnStrategic/sustainability/sustainable_future.pdf

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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.

City of Joondalup (1999) Environmental Sustainability Policy 2.6.4. Available from City of Joondalup web site at www.joondalup.wa.gov.au.

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Western Australian Municipal Association. (June 2000) Local Agenda 21 Report Card, Local Agenda 21 in Western Australia.

Western Australian Municipal Association. (April 2002) Submission to the State Sustainability Strategy.

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