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Keith Boase

3 January 2003

Professor Peter Newman
Sustainability Policy unit
Department of Premier and Cabinet
197 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Professor Newman

RE: STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is pleased to be able to comment on the Draft Sustainability Strategy, which was released in September 2002.

The commitment of the State Government of Western Australia to the development of policies to assist in the transition to a sustainable community is laudable. Whilst the document has covered a lot of ground, it will need considerable work prior to being able to act as an overarching outline to the introduction of sustainability and its concepts within Western Australia.

In order for sustainability to become an issue of major concern to every member of the Western Australian community it will be necessary to spend significant resources on the education and promotion of sustainability. Unfortunately it would appear that the promotion of sustainability has received very little recognition in the document.

The development of local milestones will be a major contributor to community awareness and the empowerment of local communities to deal with issues of sustainability. The implementation of milestones developed by local communities in conjunction with the State Sustainability Strategy, will ensure a sustainable outcome for the whole of Western Australia.

A community is driven by matters that directly impact its way and quality of life; imposition of ideas from a higher level are very rarely successful in changing the opinions and actions of a community. It is necessary to ensure that every community has a significant stake in the development of the document and also of milestones flowing from the document.

As a local government, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is the first port of call for the majority of issues dealt with by this document and as such it is considered that a significant proportion of the implementation of these issues will become the role of local government. In order that local governments throughout Western Australia can ensure the success of the State Sustainability Strategy, significant resources must be placed at the disposal of the third tier of government.

Please find attached a number of comments made by City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder officers, in order to assist you in finalising the State Sustainability Strategy, a document that will over time have a significant effect on all sectors of the Western Australian community.

Yours sincerely

IAN FLETCHER
Chief Executive Officer

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Area	Item	Comments
Sustainability and governance	Sustainability assessment	The proposed Social Assessment Unit within this Unit should be given clear guidelines, by the Government to ensure that the matters submitted to the Unit will consider can be addressed by the Unit. It is noted that the Unit will minimise potential delays in processing of Social Assessment Outline Development Plans and other documents submitted to the DPI.
	Institutional change	There is scope for the Sustainability Policy Unit to work with, the Local Government Association to provide information regarding general policy advice on sustainability programs.
	Embracing sustainability in government agencies	It is noted that many of the proposed actions for the government, such as building design and construction, the Sustainability Code of Practice, Action Plan and the Guide could be beneficial to local government. The Local Government has an important role in administering legislation and it is an opportunity to comment on the draft legislation.
	Partnerships for action	State and local government having common programs is seen as positive as the local government follows the State Sustainability Strategy. The Local Government Roundtable is also seen as positive, the WA Local Government Association, is regionally based and has seen many projects to the benefit of the whole region. The involvement of local government in development projects would be seen as very positive. Notification of large development projects to local government should be addressed.
	Planning for sustainability	The implementation of sustainability planning is occurring to some degree but it is agreed that more requirements introduced for more effective planning. It is noted that the responsibility for implementing sustainability and guidelines will lie with the local government and the development approval process. Therefore the enforcement of these requirements is strongly advocated. The ability to issue fines to ensure enforcement matters. The proposed Strategy for the DPI should have local government representation.
	Sustainability in the regions	The proposed regions should follow existing regional boundaries (regions should be modified accordingly) to reflect the associations within existing regions. The 'separate' regions should also include European heritage and incorporate the Sustainability Strategies should also take into account the Planning Strategies that have been developed.

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	Indigenous communities and sustainability	Indigenous housing needs should be addressed to reflect their cultural requirements. It is suggested that health services should be encouraged into health services for these communities. Development of Indigenous businesses and sustainability of these communities. Training and development will assist this endeavour. Specific initiatives in the mining regions should include, bush tucker and exploration works. Through increased Indigenous opportunities, communities will develop the
	Research and development for sustainability	Programs similar to the Healthy Country initiative should be implemented in all regions.
	Sustainability information online	The Sustainability online has many positive regional portals. Accessibility to the internet needs to be addressed such as subsidising computers.
	Recognising sustainability excellence	The Annual Sustainability Award is seen as a positive initiative.
Contributing to global sustainability	Population, development aid and environmental technology	The development of the Environmental Industries support for Centres of Excellence and Co-operatives is positive as the need for recycling is escalating predominantly with local government.
	Maintaining our biodiversity	The maintenance of biodiversity is as much a responsibility of philanthropists as by government departments. By State Government as of as much if not more than by bio-diversity by state institutions. The main responsibility of individuals is one of the most highly taxed (this needs to be addressed at both a state and local level). Bio-diversity in both private and public hands is a priority. Nature based recreation and tourism has many opportunities in rural and urban areas. There should be an initiative introduced to encourage private properties to protect and capitalise on this while keeping the property economically viable.
	Responding to greenhouse and climate change	The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, along with other Local Governments Authorities have become Climate Change Protection Programme™, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as assist in the reduction of specific emissions. Further assistance is required to Councils to develop programmes such as the CCP™ are adopted.
	Oil vulnerability, the gas transition and the hydrogen economy	Proof of the viability of a hydrogen economy as a real alternative to the present oil based economy in rural areas where access and transport of conventional fuels is not reliable.

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Sustainable use of natural Resources	Sustainable agriculture	<p>In order to ensure the long-term viability of Western Australia, a number of thought patterns need to be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of pastoral leases need to be reviewed. If tenure is granted, this would assist the mining industry presently lacking confidence to make their investments. • Serious consideration must be given to the concept of pastoralists as land managers. Financial support for land management would assist in the revitalisation of local pastoral areas. • Financial support of the state government to act as a buffer and quarantine barrier between mining and pastoral areas. Presently this work falls to the owner of the land. Support by the state government or one of the principal beneficiaries of these works would be beneficial.
	Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture	Aquaculture industry using saline waters also needs to be developed through rehabilitating open cut mines.
	Sustainable forestry and plantations	Presently largest potential supplier of sandalwood. There needs to be more than just a management plan. There needs to be an effort made to develop plantations and or propagation of native sandalwood species. This potential industry (rather than opportunist) would create knowledge and employment in the rural areas. Plantations seems very focused on the southern region.
	Sustainable mining and petroleum production	<p>Long-term sustainability of mining areas requires a review of mine sites for other alternative industries – e.g. geothermal energy.</p> <p>The involvement of local shires as part of the mining process is considered important due to the social impacts of mining operations on the social and economic environment. Outcomes from integrating the company into the local community are important.</p>
	Sustainable tourism	<p>The indicators/targets for this section is very broad. Sustainability of the resource (environment) can be extremely damaging to the natural environment and balances present to ensure the resource is sustainable.</p> <p>3.35 seems to contradict itself in that it is proposed as a government area as a way of demonstrating sustainability. Surely more than one local government would be involved in demonstrating sustainability.</p>
	Protecting aquatic systems	The seasonal aquatic systems also need to be developed. Development on this system needs to be assessed. Kalgoorlie-Boulder, highlighting the need for a sustainable water supply.
	Sustainable coastal and marine environments	No comment

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	Sustainable rangelands management	Land Administration Act needs to recognise issues, not just administration and industry concerns.
Sustainability and settlements	Managing urban and regional growth	<p>The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder presently has no formal urban growth strategy. It will assist with the appropriate management of the urban environment.</p> <p>The Sustainability Strategies need to be incorporated into the Town Planning Strategies. It is noted that the impact of the Integrated Development Program (Land Release Taskforce) on the regional government. The location of urban development and local strategies. The need for sustainable urban growth is considered important to prevent 'urban sprawl' in the region.</p>
	Revitalising declining centres and suburbs	<p>Support for the decentralising of industry and commerce and the revitalisation of a number of smaller communities. The revitalisation of commerce hubs (21st Century infrastructure) and the revitalisation of communities should be fully supported.</p> <p>The 'Reviving the Suburbs' will require a coordinated approach as many of the identified initiatives will involve the participation of local government and therefore local government support for development of the initiative and the Community Development Commission. These initiatives should integrate with Liveability and be taken into consideration the heritage value of the centres.</p>
	Integrating land use and balanced transport	<p>The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder has in place a strategy for the planning and development of bicycle related infrastructure to encourage increased use of non-motorised transport. There are difficulties in providing effective public transport in the region compared with the Perth Metropolitan area.</p> <p>The provision of footpaths and bicycle paths is the responsibility of local government therefore the provision of footpaths on both sides of any road within a residential area should be provided. The City's Town Planning Scheme should encourage convenience stores to locate in existing suburban areas so that these stores cannot compete with the 24 hour convenience outlets. The proposal to cover noise and other issues related to vehicles under the Australian Design Rules should be considered on suburban amenity. The Integrated Funding Strategy for land use and transport planning are also seen as important.</p>

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	Managing freight and regional transport	The development of a regional inter-modal will take pressure of the transport system in in the delivery of freight to the south-west and of freight is transported through to the metro and sent back along the route it has just consumed money and resources and in no way aligns with sustainability, the introduction of one or more hubs will provide a more efficient regional transport system.
	Preserving air quality	Perth based – fails to include and/or plan for recognise other areas that may be managing zones for industry must be maintained to minimise by-products, normally considered to be waste to minimise off-site impacts as well as minimise.
	Reducing and managing waste	<p>The ‘Towards zero waste by 2020’ has been all waste by 2020 rather” than “towards zero such as this may have a detrimental effect on state government is heading with regard to planning. A target of this section reads – ‘reduce resource by 2020’ – this statement seems very vague, how and by whom using what process will the rate be ascertained.</p> <p>The local governments should receive extra to achieve a reduction in consumption and waste audit and prepare the waste management plan.</p>
	Our future water	<p>All Western Australian communities should resources available to them, this should include water. Kalgoorlie-Boulder is responsible for the largest re-user of effluent water in Australia.</p> <p>The harvesting of stormwater should be a shared and local government.</p>
	Sustainable energy	<p>No mention of support mechanisms to encourage adopt new technology. Seems to be primarily and government procurement policy.</p> <p>If the responsibility for the rating system for local government funding should be provided orientation could and should be incorporated. Energy efficiency for all government buildings encouraged.</p>

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	Preserving cultural heritage and landscape and creating 'sense of place'	The review and implementation of town planning government. To ensure retention of heritage and an innovative approach to assessing protected heritage places. Therefore economic considerations and a sustainability approach to heritage preservation. Social and economic factors would have major influence. Policy should ensure flexibility to ensure that it can adapt to the changes and evolution of 'sense of place'. It would have more benefits if adopted under the Planning Act through the Heritage Council as the Heritage Act is amended to include non State Registered places.
	Building sustainability	In order to bring about change in the building industry, renewable energy is available to and utilised. Financial rewards and support will need to be higher to encourage recycling of building material, be it in another form or a new product needs to be fully supported, to encourage the use of materials from construction sites. The production of the Sustainable Construction Plan as it will be able to collate the relevant sector information into a useable format for the general community. The plan should be encouraged through incentives.
Sustainability and community	Community services and development	A sensible balance needs to be struck between community needs. This balance is best achieved through the resource support of state government. The need for Regional Councils to create Regional Services Plans is considered positive but additional funding is available.
	Housing and sustainability	Sustainability in housing should reflect the needs of the community developed.
	Sustaining healthy communities	Communities need to be built around facilities where community are met. Primary health care is a priority. Access to these facilities is of vital importance. The plan is a reflection of the regions health, necessitating a focus on health as well as established industries.
	Education and community awareness for sustainability	In order to educate for an awareness of sustainability, a partnership needs to develop between the people and the government. As sustainability is principally about the future, to have the educators and the local government working together is essential.
	Sustainability through culture and the arts	How a community embraces culture and the arts can dictate the attitudes of that community. Regional arts programs, either community based or government funded, need funding to ensure that they continue and to develop new cultural heritage products and enterprises.

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	Multiculturalism and sustainability	Continued education with the inclusion of c encourage communities to be accepting of v
Sustainability and business	Training and facilitation for sustainability	In order to train for, and facilitate the comm future considerable support and resources ar preaching sustainability centred in Perth wil regionally based communities. It is necessar regional issue being tackled by the region w governments, not state government lead.
	Financial reform and economic instruments for sustainability	Triple bottom line accounting within govern financial Enterprise facilitation to ensure there are de approaches to enterprise facilitation should l with the assistance of the state government.
	Eco- efficiency and industrial ecology	Opportunities exist in all industries to bench develop plans to improve efficiency and dec establishing the benchmark first, a history o stage in the evolution of the industry.
	Industry sustainability covenants	No comment.
Implementation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of regions needs to maximum synergies between the comm the existing regions. • The three tiers of government have t to ensure that maximum acceptance is a • Community drivers for sustainability from a state government organisation w rather than sharing and acceptance. • Triple bottom line accounting needs operations with a strong emphasis on th • Milestones need to be set by local cc communities to determining what suppl capacity within the community to fully • Industry must be encouraged to assis social capital, as this is the basis of thei term survival. <p>Implementation will rely heavily on local go of Planning Policy. Need legislative power t appropriate penalties (ie fines). State Sustain with regional and local planning strategies.</p>