

Department of Education and Training

Government of Western Australia

21 February 2003

Sustainability Policy Unit
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
197 St George's Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

DRAFT STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft State Sustainability Strategy.

As you may be aware, on 3 February 2003, the former Department of Training merged with the former Department of Education to form the Department of Education and Training (DET). Responsibility for vocational education matters will therefore rest with the Office of Training within the broader DET structure. I wish to reassure you that the reorganisation will not materially impact on the recommendations relevant to the training sector contained within the Draft Strategy.

Whilst the Office of Training has no additional comment to make on the overall content of the document, I wish to request that the performance indicator used in the section entitled Training and Facilitation for Sustainability be reviewed. The current indicator, "the number of new TAFE courses in sustainability areas", is rather too narrow in the context of a network of public and private training providers. Although the number of new courses in sustainability areas would be somewhat indicative of progress, it is flawed in that it ignores changes within existing courses of study which may impart sustainability principles within the existing course structure. My preference would be for an indicator which is rather more generic and which embraces the role to be played by all training providers, not just those in the TAFE College network. I understand that this was a view shared by participants at the public consultation forum at which this section of the Strategy was considered.

Paul Stewart from the Office of Training is available to discuss this matter with you further.

He may be contacted on 9235 6214

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