

November 13, 2002

Dr Ross Field  
A/Executive Director, Policy  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
197 St George's Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ross

**DRAFT STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on above document. We'd like to commend the document, and make some suggestions for strengthening the way it addresses heritage issues in chapter 6.

The 'In-Short' section on page 159 omits many of the most important issues and strategies, and some of the terminology used isn't accurate. For your consideration, we've suggested a rewording for this section, as supplied at Attachment 1.

The 'Proposed Actions' in that section are of course particularly important as they contain the means by which the Strategy can be translated into tangible outcomes.

Other suggestions we'd like to make are as follows:

- i. We'd recommend adding a short paragraph to the one presently appearing under the heading 'Heritage' on page 13, to make clearer why heritage conservation is part of sustainability:

Heritage conservation does not stand in isolation, but is inseparably linked with economic development, tourism, urban 'livability', reduction of waste, and the social cohesion of communities. It is a major asset in promoting goals in these related areas, and it helps provide the 'glue' that holds them together.

- ii. We'd recommend strengthening the section on Sustainable Tourism on page 117 in Chapter 5, so that built heritage is addressed more specifically alongside nature conservation. Some suggestions appear at Attachment 2

Please contact Michael Betham on 9220 4112 if you would like to discuss this further. Alternatively, we'd be happy to come and discuss it in person if you preferred.

Yours sincerely

IAN BAXTER  
**DIRECTOR**

**Heading**

CONSERVING CULTURAL HERITAGE PLACES AND AREAS, AND ENHANCING A 'SENSE OF PLACE'

**Vision**

That Western Australia's built heritage and special qualities of place are valued and enhanced in all development.

**Objective**

Create a quality built environment in Western Australia through the conservation of cultural heritage and the active development of quality public spaces.

**Actions underway include**

- Accelerated compilation of the State Heritage Register
- Protection of heritage places by Local Governments through municipal inventories and town planning schemes
- Area-based conservation such as that achieved in the West End in Fremantle
- Active involvement of State and Local Governments in public spaces and community art in city centres (*through which program?*)
- Community-based programs such as the development of a multi-media laboratory by members of the Kojonup community.

**Proposed actions**

- i. Prepare a Heritage-based tourism, economic and social development strategy for WA;
- ii. Improve knowledge of the condition of the State's heritage by periodic survey work coordinated by the Heritage Council and local governments.
- iii. Improve legislative protection of the State's built heritage by making the Heritage Act up-to-date and effective;
- iv. Require that Regional Development Commissions commit to sustainability objectives (including cultural heritage conservation) in their grant aid and other programs;
- v. Improve the standards of local government heritage protection with reference to best practice, including best practice in guidance of infill and redevelopment in heritage areas.
- vi. Increase the amount of grant aid available to heritage conservation projects on the grounds of the sustainability benefits (given that the funds available in the Council and Lotteries Commission grant programs are very small);
- vii. Lead by example in the conservation of Government-owned heritage assets;
- viii. Promoting a wider appreciation of the value of cultural heritage, including knowledge of the economic benefits of heritage conservation.
- ix. Support opportunities for indigenous people to promote cultural awareness within their own communities.
- x. Develop a Built Environment Policy that focuses attention on Western Australia's architectural features and promotes quality architecture that enhances our 'sense of place'.
- xi. Make heritage conservation an important issue in major planning policies or reviews, such as the *Future Perth* project.
- xii. Develop a Creative City Policy as part of Future Perth to ensure that community values are expressed creatively in the city centre and other centres.

**Indicators and targets**

- Extent to which the State Register is comprehensive
- Extent to which town planning schemes contain heritage provisions in accordance with the Model Scheme Text, and give protection to a comprehensive inventory of places and areas.
- Extent to which heritage places are in sound condition and are not demolished

**Heading**

**SUSTAINABLE TOURISM**

**Vision**

Amend to read: Tourism continues to grow in Western Australia but becomes more and more a tool for the management of natural, cultural and indigenous resources; the repair and protection of the environment ....etc

**Objective**

No change

**Actions underway include**

ADD:

- Accreditation of Authentic indigenous tourism product is being developed in conjunction with the National Tourism Accreditation Program.

**Proposed Actions:**

ADD:

Develop the State's Cultural Tourism Strategy (through the Tourism commission) and the Heritage Council of Heritage Tourism Strategy (through the Heritage Council) in a coordinated fashion.

**Indicators:**

Amend to read: Increasing numbers of accredited tourism ventures based on the natural, cultural and indigenous resources of Western Australia.