

SUBMISSION TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Regarding Consultation Draft:

***“Focus on the Future -
The Western Australian
State Sustainability Strategy”***

STATEMENT OF POSITION

**The City of Mandurah strongly supports the concepts
behind the Consultation Draft
by the
State Sustainability Unit.**

The City of Mandurah is firmly committed to Sustainability Principles as evidenced by its Corporate Plan (***Attachment 1***):

“Community Charter and Strategic Plan 2001 – 2004”

The City of Mandurah is also strongly committed to the partnering philosophies espoused throughout the consultation draft.

CITY OF MANDURAH - COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Mandurah is one of 15 Western Australian Local Governments which have formally committed to Local Agenda 21 processes. Council continues to progressively implement its sustainability objectives. Council's most recent Corporate Plan is adopted on the basis of the triple bottom line with an emphasis on People, Planet, Prosperity and Planning.

The Community Charter and Strategic Plan 2001 – 2004 is based on four (4) guiding principles:

PEOPLE

- a commitment to all the age groups, whether children, youth, adults or seniors
- a commitment to all ethnic groups within our community
- the provision of a safe and secure environment
- the provision of accessible services
- the provision of good governance

PLANET

- a commitment to integrated waterways management
- a commitment to coastal rehabilitation
- a commitment to maintaining bushland buffers and natural vegetation
- a commitment to protection of our local fauna, flora and fisheries
- improved waste management systems
- reduction of greenhouse emissions and pollution control

PROSPERITY

- to encourage the attraction of eco-friendly businesses
- to support the retention and expansion of existing businesses, and encourage new business opportunities
- to encourage and support a vibrant central business district
- a commitment to tourism development
- to promote appropriateness skills development
- to provide good management of the City's assets

PLANNING

- to ensure strategic environmental planning occurs by providing sufficient resourcing to ensure that future growth is managed
- to ensure that existing strategies and policies are refined to promote the City's sustainable principles
- to ensure regional co-operation in all areas of planning
- to be actively involved in the planning, lobbying for, and provision of major infrastructure for the City's growth

Our commitments and achievements in these areas are recognition of the significance of Sustainability principles to the City that Council's most strategic document uses as its basis. The City's reporting functions (internally - including all agenda items to Committee and Council, and externally) are required to include reference to the appropriate strategies and action(s) in the Corporate Plan.

CITY OF MANDURAH - COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Mandurah is committed to formation of partnerships for the successful delivery of services within the community.

These partnerships can be with other tiers of government, its agencies, private sector and community.

The City of Mandurah has an excellent record of successful partnership arrangements. Examples in recent years are:

MANDURAH OCEAN MARINA:	<p>A highly successful project between the Council, the Peel Development Commission and Landcorp.</p> <p>Involved planning, consultation, sensitive community matters, complicated legal and planning matters, tender arrangements and financial management.</p>
MANDURAH PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE:	<p>The quality of the building, and its high volume use speak for the success of this partnership between the Council and the then Government Property Office.</p> <p>Involved planning, research, financial management, tendering and project management.</p>
READING CINEMAS - MANDURAH:	<p>A partnership involving the Council and the private sector. Provided a much needed community service, provides a financial return for the City, is part of a vibrant cultural precinct and is a successful business venture for the private sector.</p>
MANDURAH WASTE ALLIANCE:	<p>A successful partnership between the Council and private sector to provide a total waste management package within the City. Two years in the planning. Shows the success of partnerships if these principles are followed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * openness * accountability * honesty * measured performance * common objectives/values * teamwork * shared vision * equity * trust <p>These are required for a successful partnership and need to be addressed by the State if the methodologies within the Consultation Draft are to be effective.</p>

LAND EXCHANGE PEEL EDUCATION CAMPUS:	<p>A negotiation between the Council, the (then) Education Department, the (then) Department of Employment and Training and the Department of Land Administration.</p> <p>As a result, the Peel Education Campus was born, the Cinema site was created and Council received a valuable community owned space in the proposed Marina.</p>
HALLS HEAD COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE:	<p>A joint project between the Council, the (then) Education Department and the Mandurah Hockey Association (Inc). A high class sporting facility was attained.</p>
JOINT POLICE PATROLS – MANDURAH CBD:	<p>A successful venture between the Council and Police Department for two years until police resourcing issues, unfortunately, saw its demise.</p>
MANDURAH TRANSIT STATION – PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE:	<p>A current arrangement, which shares the responsibility for infrastructure works between Council, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, (Main Roads WA), New MetroRail (formerly PURD) and the private sector.</p>
REDEVELOPMENT OF CHURCH STUDIO (FORMERLY SUTTON HALL):	<p>A co-operative project between the Council and the Department of Justice.</p>
COODANUP COMMUNITY BUILDING:	<p>A project between the Council and Department of Housing and Works (Homeswest) for community building within the suburb of Coodanup.</p>
SCHOOL OVALS:	<p>Shared funding arrangements on school ovals to enable weekend usage by the community and a higher level of maintenance and standard of turf.</p>
PEEL, ROCKINGHAM, KWINANA LIBRARY & INFORMATION RESOURCE SHARING PROJECT:	<p>A project involving all Peel Councils, City of Rockingham, Town of Kwinana, Department of Education and Training, Murdoch University and private schools to improve accessibility to public library services, particularly using the Internet.</p>

These projects have been successful and indicate the City's ability to work productively in partnerships, and achieve mutual benefits and/or economies.

It is essential that the concept of partnering become part of the 'mindset' of government as it is at the City of Mandurah. It needs to be a "normal way of operating" for government departments and agencies. For a Local Government / State Government partnership to succeed, the principles detailed on page 4 relating to the waste alliance need to be followed by all partners.

COMMENT ON THE DRAFT

The consultation draft of the Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy is a well-drafted document, presented in a very readable fashion that gives great detail and examples of the importance of sustainability principles for the future growth of Western Australia.

Many Local Governments in Western Australia already espouse the theory included within the document. Many of these authorities have, in the past, been frustrated by the lack of observance of sustainability practices by the State and Federal Governments, and by neighbouring local governments.

It is understood that the practical implementation of the Strategy will be difficult. The Strategy needs to be embodied in the basis of operation for all State Government Departments and instrumentalities. This process has been the basis for its introduction at the City of Mandurah.

All government agencies must acknowledge its importance, espouse its values, and put in place mechanisms to ensure decisions are based (at least in part) on sustainability reasons.

This will require adequate funding.

Government should realise that if a commitment is to be made, real dollars should be set aside for:

- Training
- Communications
- Publications
- Implementation
- Review of Systems.

The Strategy does not address the issues of funding, cost sharing or the timetable for implementation.

There is considerable work required to move the draft from a 'document of theory' to a manual for implementation. The draft is extremely general and the final document must be underpinned by commitments, actions and timeliness. "Annual Report Card" monitoring and evaluation of progress is considered essential.

The City of Mandurah is aware that the Western Australian Local Government Association has made a detailed submission, which was the result of considerable input by Western Australian Local Governments. This submission more than adequately expresses the general Local Government view of the need for a co-operative strategy where both the State and Local Governments play their roles in producing sustainable outcomes.

The WALGA submission emphasised the need for an integrated approach – including:

- Aligning the State Strategy with those already existing in local governments.
- Ensuring the State Strategy extends to the reach of Local Governments' current strategies, and value-adds in these areas.
- Ensuring common approaches are taken.
- Prioritising the opportunities for regionally based actions, which benefits the State and Local Governments.

The City of Mandurah has previously made a submission to WALGA, which was used to assist in the formulation of its submission.

CONCLUSION

The challenge for the State Government will be ensuring the objectives of the Strategies are delivered across the state, and especially in rural and regional areas. There remains a “silo mentality” in too many departments and agencies.

New accountabilities and mechanisms are required to make the paradigm change.

Most of the issues and difficulties faced by governments across the nation will not be solved by existing processes.

The State Government should be complemented for the quality of draft and its commitment to the principles of sustainability and partnerships. The City of Mandurah shares these philosophies and welcomes the opportunity to be involved.