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

26th February 2003

RE: State Sustainability Strategy Paper

This letter is from the perspective of a young person. We are the ones of the future; we are the ones who will be left to deal with the repercussions of the decisions that are made now. So then I ask, why does this document and the processes used in getting to this document, not in any way appeal to young people. This seems absurd. I feel that the government's concept of sustainability is very different from my concept of sustainability. It seems to me that so often the government overrides ecology with economy.

The State Sustainability paper is not a good tool for community consultation, it does not engage attract or interest the average person. Why is this so? Steps need to be taken, by the government to insure that community consultation is dealt with in a more adequate way.

The majority of people in the WA community would not take a second glance at this consultation paper. This being so because of it's appearance. It is a thick document, dull in colour and looks extremely boring. Sustainability does no spring to mind when I look at this document. (Is it printed on recycled paper?)

The only reason I found out about the State Sustainability Strategy Paper and that I had a chance to comment on it was because I am part of a environment group. What about all the other people that are not a part of an environment group? How are they supposed to find out about it? I know sustainability workshops were held weekly in Perth, but these where held during working hours and I along with many other people found it impossible to get to them on a weekday.

It is the government's responsibility and their job to make sure the whole community (not just the community groups), are notified and included in a way that makes participation in the State Sustainability Strategy easy.

For these reasons it is hard to have faith that the Government is committed to wide, extensive and meaningful community participation. I have little faith in the processes that have been used in this case to involve the community in the planning for a positive and better future – a more sustainable future.

So, renew the communities faith in the government and let us work together to make our way to a more cooperative sustainable future.

Yours sincerely

Rosalie Vinicombe