

20November 2002

Professor Peter Newman  
Director, Sustainability Policy Unit  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, 197 St George's Terrace  
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Peter,

**SUBMISSION: FOCUS ON THE FUTURE-THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
STATE SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT.**

Thank you for the invitation to comment on Focus in the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability strategy Consultation Draft (Government of Western Australia, September 2002).

Again, I congratulate the Government on taking a proactive approach to developing sustainability in the state of Western Australia. The document provides significant background information for a broad range of issues. I provide my general comments on the Consultation Draft in the three points below:

- 1) I am disappointed with the list of proposed actions. Many of the proposed actions will, by themselves, not achieve sustainability. I provide a fragment list of examples from the Consultation Draft below:
  - Establish an Industry-Government Working Group....
  - Develop a Sustainability Code of Practice....
  - Establish a partnership...
  - Support a State-Local Governed Sustainability Roundtable...
  - Establish a Strategic Alliance....

I do not believe that the formation of working groups, partnerships, codes, alliances (etc) such as those listed above will achieve sustainability. The actions need to be outcome focused with the actions specific and achievable. For example, a proposed action may state that:

*'All fleet vehicles used by the State Government agencies will be powered by Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) by 2005'.*

Direct targets such as that above provide and outcome-focused actions, are deliverable, provide an appropriate timeframe for implementation and are based on sound knowledge already gained through existing research and development. Consideration should be given to refining the list of proposed actions an outcome-focused format.

- 2) The lengthy list of proposed actions may set up the State Government for significant failure, whereby the Government will be held accountable for not implementing some of the many proposed actions. Consideration should be given to refining list of proposed actions, or alternatively, clearly identify the agencies/groups which have agreed to

implement the strategies on behalf of the State government, thereby transferring the responsibility.

- 3) The Consultation Draft not state how the implement action of the proposed actions will be monitored, thereby not providing for accountable and transparent implementation. I recommend that reporting on the implantation of the proposed actions be listed sequentially in an implantation status report not exceeding five (5) years from the final release. The implantation status report should also state actions required to improve implantation..

I hope that my comments will be beneficial in finalising the Strategy. Should you wish to discus this future please contact me through the details listed below.

Yours Sincerely

Stuart Hawkins

---

Stuart A. Hawkins *B.Sc. Hons. (Env. Mgt)*  
ENVIROMNETAL OFFICER  
Environmental Compliance Audit Section  
Environmental Regulation Division  
Department of Environmental Protection

Office Address: Level 9, 141 St George Terrace PERTH WA 6000  
Postal Address: PO Box K822 PERTH WA 6842  
Phone: (08) 9222 7054; Fax (08) 9322 1598  
Email: [Stuart.Hawkins@environ.wa.gov.au](mailto:Stuart.Hawkins@environ.wa.gov.au)

*Please note:*

*This communication represents the view of the author only, and may not be representative of the view of any organisation to which the author is associated.*

