

28 January 2003

Dr Ross Field
Acting Executive Director
Policy
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Government of Western Australia
197 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Dr Field,

**FOCUS IN THE FUTURE: THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN STATE
SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY – CONSULTATION DRAFT**

I refer to your letter dated 26 September 2002 regarding the above matter and apologise for the delay in response.

I wish to advise that the Chief Executive Officer under Delegated Authority on 14 January 2003 resolved the following:

“That the Council;

- (i) receives the document relating to “Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy “ dated September 2002; and
- (ii) advises the Government of Western Australian and the Western Australian Government Association that the Town generally supports, in principal, the content and intent of the “Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy” as outlined in this Report.”

If you have any enquires regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Town’s Planning Officer (Strategic) Yolands Scheidegger on the above telephone number.

Yours Sincerely

**ROB BOARDMAN
EXECUTIVE MANAGER
ENVIROMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

10.1.3 Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy – Consultation Draft

Ward:	Both Wards:	Date:	9 January 2003
Precinct:	All Precincts:	File Ref:	PLA0096
Reporting Officer(s):	Y Scheidegger, D Brits		
Checked/Endorsed by:	D Abel		
Amended by:	-		

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council;

- (i) receives the document relating to “Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability” dated September 2002;and**
- (ii) advises the Government of Western Australia and the Western Australian Local Government Association that the Town generally supports, in principal, the content and intent of the “Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy” as outlined in this report.**

BACKGROUND:

The State Government has recently released a document entitled “Focus on the Future – The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy” (SS) (Consultation Draft) dated September 2002. Comments are being sought from interested parties on the content of the SS will also be held over the next few months, which will provide interested parties further opportunities for feedback on the SS.

DETAILS:

The SS proposes new principles, actions and goals based on the triple-bottom-line approach of economic, social and environmental considerations and summarised below.

Principles for Sustainability are divided into Foundations and Process Principles.

The Foundation Principles include:

- 1. Long-Term Economic Health**
Sustainability recognises the needs of current and future generations for long-term Economic health, diversity and productivity of the earth.
- 2. Equity and Human Rights**

Sustainability recognises that an environment needs to be created where all people can express their full potential and lead productive lives and that significant gaps in sufficiency and opportunity endanger the earth.

3. **Biodiversity and Ecological Integrity**
Sustainability recognises that all has intrinsic value, is interconnected and that biodiversity and ecological integrity are part of the irreplaceable life support systems upon which the earth depends.
4. **Settlement Efficiency and Quality of Life**
Sustainability recognises that the earth can adjust to a more balanced state if settlements reduce their ecological footprint (i.e. less material and energy demands and reductions in waste), while they simultaneously improve their quality of life (health, housing, employment, community...).
5. **Community, Regions, 'Sense of place' and Heritage**
Sustainability recognises the significance and diversity of community and regions for the management of the earth, and the critical importance of 'sense of place' and heritage (buildings, townscapes, landscapes and culture) in any plans for the future.
6. **Net Benefit from Development**
Sustainability means that all development, and particularly development involving extraction of non-renewable resources (like air, water and open space) so that natural carrying capacities are not exceeded and so that a shared resource is available to all.
7. **Common Good from Planning**
Sustainability recognises that planning for the common good requires equitable distribution of public resources (like air, water and open space) so that natural carrying capacities are not exceeded and so that a shared resource is available to all.

The process Principles include:

1. **Integration of the Triple Bottom Line**
Sustainability requires that economic, social and environment factors be integrated by simultaneous application of these principles, seeking mutually supportive benefits with minimal trade offs.
2. **Accountability, Transparency and Engagement**
Sustainability recognises that people should have access to information on sustainability issues, that institutions should have triple bottom line accountability, that regular sustainability audits of programs and policies should be conducted, and that public engagement lies at the heart of all sustainability principles.

3. **Precaution**
Sustainability requires caution, avoiding poorly understood risks of serious or irreversible damage, designing for surprises and managing for adoption.
4. **Hope, Vision, Symbolic and Iterative Change**
Sustainability recognises that applying these principles as part of broad strategic vision for the earth can generate hope in future, and thus it will involve symbolic change that is part of many successive steps over generations.

Sustainability Visions for Western Australia include the following:

1. **Governance**
Western Australia's system of governance is world famous for its responsiveness to sustainability issues, effective and financially responsible in its programs, transparent and inclusive in its process and reflects its globally significant responsibilities towards the land and its people.
2. **Global Contributions**
Western Australia contributes to the solution of global sustainability issues particularly population pressure and poverty, climate change, threats to biodiversity and oil vulnerability and in so doing creates significant local opportunities for new jobs in the rapidly growing sustainability economy.
3. **Natural Resources**
Western Australia's vast landscape, intricate web of biodiversity and natural resources are managed and used sustainably for the common good closely involving the community in management and planning processes that are transparent and visionary.
4. **Settlements**
Western Australia's settlements are among the most attractive places to live in the world, constantly becoming more innovative and efficient in their use of resources and managed of waste while simultaneously being more liveable and equitable.
5. **Community**
Western Australia communities in cities and in regions have a strong sense of place, supportive networks receptive to local needs, and though this respond uniquely to the sustainability agenda.
6. **Business**
Western Australia businesses, large and small, are globally innovative and responsive, leading to the resolution of sustainability issue at home and abroad and achieving competitive advantage and prosperity.

The State Government's Sustainability Goals and Priority Areas for Actions include:

Goal 1 – Ensure that the way we govern is driving the transition to a sustainable future

- Sustainability assessment
- Institutional change
- Embracing sustainability in government agencies
- Partnerships for action
- Planning for sustainability in the regions
- Indigenous communities and sustainability
- Sustainability information online
- Recognising sustainability excellence

Goal 2 – Play our part in solving the global challenges of sustainability

- Population, development aid and environmental technology
- Maintaining our biodiversity
- Responding to greenhouse and climate change
- Oil vulnerability, the gas transition and the hydrogen economy

Goal 3 – Value and protect our natural environment and ensure the sustainable management of natural resources

- Sustainable agriculture
- Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture
- Sustainable forests and plantations
- Sustainable mining and petroleum production
- Sustainable tourism
- Protecting aquatic systems
- Sustainable coastal and marine environments
- Sustainable rangelands management

Goal 4 – Plan provide settlements that reduce the ecological footprint and enhance quality of life at the same time

- Managing urban and regional growth
- Revitalising declining centres and suburbs
- Integrating land use and balanced transport
- Managing freight and regional transport
- Preserving air quality
- Reducing and managing waste
- Our water future
- Sustainability energy
- Preserving cultural heritage and landscapes and creating 'sense of place'
- Building sustainably

Goal 5 – Support communities to fully participate in achieving a sustainable future

- Community services and development
- Housing and sustainability

- Sustaining healthy communities
- Education and community awareness for sustainability
- Sustainability through culture and the arts
- Multicultural and sustainability

Goal 6 – Assist business to benefit from and contribute to sustainability

- Training and facilitation for sustainability
- Financially reform and economic instruments for sustainability
- Eco-efficiency and industrial ecology
- Industry sustainability covenants

A Final Strategy will be developed over the next six months through extensive consultation and engagement with the community, business and government's agencies.

A memorandum dated 23 October 2002, including an attached copy of the "Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy" documents was issued to the Mayor and all Councillors for their information.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

Strategic Plan 200 – 2002

- Key Results Area 1: Environment. And Infrastructure:
*"1.1 Protect and enhance environmental sustainability and biodiversity.
 1.3 Develop, implement and promote sustainable urban design.
 1.4 Maintain and enhance the Town's infrastructure to provide a safe, healthy, sustainable and functional environments."*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 2002/2003 Budget has \$30,000 allocated for the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) strategy. Part of the funds has already been spent undertaking various tasks implementing sustainability in the corporate sector of the Town.

It is considered appropriate that any future sustainable projects be funded as part of the 2003/2004 Budget and thereafter on an annual basis as part of the annual budget process.

COMMENTS:

Health Services Section Comments

It is advised that the Australian Institute of Environmental Health announced a Special Issue, Sustainability in Environmental Health, Environmental Health (Professional Journal), to be released by April 2003. The Editor is Associate Professor Health Gardner of Victoria. Subsequently, it would be prudent to submit a further Health Services report to Council on the topic that is aligned to latest Australian initiatives prior to seeking community comment on a Local Health Services and Sustainability Plan.

General Comments

Most Local Governments in Western Australia have been working towards a Sustainability Agenda over the last decade. Recent survey results collected by Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) document 20 Local Governments formally engaged in progressing sustainability principles, while an additional 30 Local Governments have informally adopted sustainability in planning and practice.

Sustainability is generally known as the 'triple bottom line' approach encompassing the environment, social and economic dimensions.

The town had been involved with several sustainable projects over the past few years and with the release of the SS there is a need for a local sustainable strategy to be developed by the Town to provide an integrated approach to sustainability within the Town. The town is currently preparing a report that will be submitted to an Ordinary Council Meeting in April 2003 on sustainability in the Town outlining in detail the various projects that the Town is involved with and the future direction of sustainability in the Town.

The SS provides a basis in which the Town can develop local sustainable projects that fit into the State's sustainability goals.

In light of the above it is recommended that the Council;

- (i) receives the document relating to "Focus on the Future: The Western Australian State Sustainability Strategy" dated September 2002; and
- (ii) advises the Government of Western Australia and the Western Australia Local Government Association that the Town generally supports, in principal, the content and intent of the "Focus on the Future: The Western Australia State Sustainability Strategy" as outlined in this Report.

