

I wish to offer my support for the development of a Sustainability Charter.

I believe it is important to ensure the targets to reduce energy consumption are realistic and not just a figure plucked from the air - one size fits all (which is the formula used up to now by NSW Government). There needs to be far more awareness campaigns and achievable reduction levels that are established to suit a variety of users. Easily accessible awards should be provided for achievers and cost penalties (increase energy charges) should be applied to those defined as inefficient. A high consumer can also be an efficient operator so benchmarks need to be established to identify poor performers in a variety of categories. Recognition needs to be given to those who are already energy efficient not just to poor performers who stop wasting energy.

Regards

Garry Stevenson

Terms of Reference

Inquiry into a Sustainability Charter

On 12 September 2005 the House of Representatives Standing Committee tabled the Sustainable Cities report. The committee called for the development of a Sustainability Charter based on measurable outcomes, over a certain period, with intermediate milestones. The charter should be aspirational. It must provide targets for the Australian community to meet and, once those targets have been met they must be re-assessed so new targets can be put in place.

The Committee is now inquiring into and will report on key elements of a sustainability charter and identify the most important and achievable targets, particularly in relation to:

1. The built environment;
2. Water;
3. Energy;
4. Transport; and,
5. Ecological footprint.

The Committee invites submissions from individuals and organisations with an interest or expertise in these matters.

Submissions can be e-mailed to Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au

or sent to the following address:

Environment and Heritage Committee
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The closing date for submissions is Friday May 12 2006 although the committee will accept late submissions.