



House of Representatives Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage Sustainability Charter: Education and Community Engagement Discussion

It is imperative that Australia develops effective public policy about sustainability as soon as possible. The proposed Sustainability Charter must articulate this policy.

This Charter must engage all Australians in acting more sustainably at home and at work.

Education of the community is essential for the Charter to be enacted. Such education must be set within a broad vision articulated in the Charter. The AAEE's dream for education and sustainability follows.

"We have a dream... for education and a sustainable future"

Ten Point Vision about Environmental Education for Sustainability in Australia

The purpose of this statement is to identify a vision for the role of education in developing a sustainable future for Australia. This vision has been developed by the Australian Association for Environmental Education but will belong to all those who take a role in its implementation.

Every Australian government - federal, state, territory and local - recognises sustainability as an essential goal by having comprehensive sustainability policies and programs to support all Australians in moving to more sustainable lifestyles through integrated education, regulatory, economic and infrastructure provision measures.

Every business in Australia is encouraged to develop sustainable practices through appropriate infrastructure and educational support, economic incentives and regulatory framework.

Every large and medium corporate entity trading in Australia uses quadruple¹ bottom line reporting and trains its staff in environmental conservation and practices beyond legislative compliance.

Every community and professional organisation takes a role in supporting its members to integrate sustainable practices into their activities.

Every formal educational institution (pre-school, school, TAFE college, university and registered training organisation) demonstrates best practice in establishing sustainable campuses and curriculum that integrates sustainability content and principles to enable all graduates to develop sustainable lifestyles and working practices.

Every school student is engaged in practical, hands-on, dynamic sustainability education, including experiences in the natural world, in every year of their learning through a curriculum that integrates coherent sustainability principles.

Every educator (in both formal and non-formal sectors) is professionally trained in both education and sustainability content, methods and principles.

Every provider of environmental education for sustainability recognizes that education should be directed at developing improved knowledge, skills, capacity and motivation to adopt more sustainable practices.

Every member of the Australian community and every visitor to Australia learns about sustainable practices in all spheres of their lives or visit to Australia, including the sustainability implications of all purchases of goods and services, and is provided with relevant infrastructure and appropriate choices in all aspects of their lives in, or visit to, Australia.

Every household in our community is supported by ongoing education and improved and integrated public infrastructure and a culture that supports sustainability, to engage in an increasing range of sustainable behaviours.

¹ Quadruple bottom line means triple bottom line plus governance