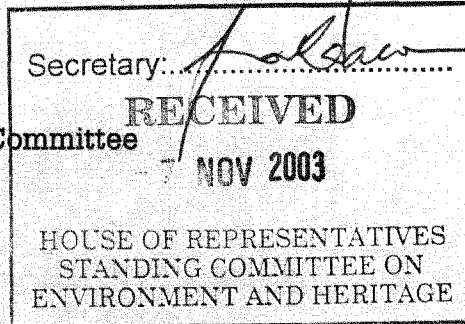


Manly Council



3rd November, 2003
Enquiries: Skye Addison

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



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Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Submission to the Sustainable Cities 2025 Discussion Paper

In response to the House of Representative's Discussion Paper on Sustainable Cities 2025, Council wishes to provide the following comments as listed below.

Council is active in striving for a sustainable Manly, with the adoption of the Manly Sustainability Strategy in 1998, addressing Local Agenda 21, and have been recognised at a State and National level for our sustainability programs through being a recipient of several key sustainability/environmental awards. Council therefore wishes to identify itself as a possible case study example, similar to those highlighted on page 14 of the report. We feel that our approach to implementing sustainability is sound and can provide a good model for local governments tackling sustainability.

Objectives

With regards to the Discussion Paper's objectives, Council wishes to firstly emphasise the importance of environmental, social and economic aspects being considered central to sustainability. The objectives fail to identify economic and social elements and therefore has resulted in a discussion paper which focuses on natural environmental matters only. It is therefore strongly recommended that the objectives be expanded in line with those of Agenda 21 to include economic and social elements.

Further comments on the existing seven objectives are:

- Objective two - include the "minimisation" of the use of resources;
- Objective four - substitute "minimisation" of waste, with "through elimination of".
- Objective five - include "affordable" public transport.
- Objective six - include "preserving and converting" older buildings.

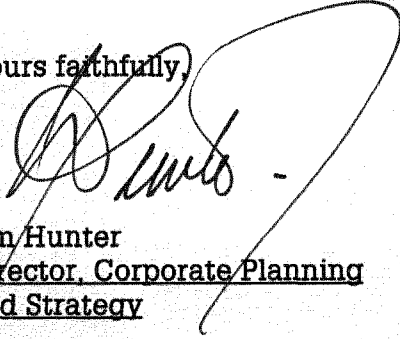
General Comments

The following is an outline of comments which should be integrated throughout the report:

- Importance of bushland habitat corridors and retaining surplus bushland corridors
- Close roads to through traffic and convert to bushland, community gardens, community facilities.
- Greater use of tax incentives to encourage sustainable living
- Include case studies of Community Food Cooperatives; environmentally "friendly" corporations e.g. Xerox.
- Management for elimination of waste - not just minimisation
- Identify Education for Sustainability as an important tool for achieving sustainability.
- Identify incentives to use renewable energies
- Consider petrol tax to support affordable public transport
- Public transport must be able to accommodate bicycles
- Make eco-efficiency affordable through low-interest loans
- Introduce mandatory labeling for building materials
- Reduce demand on rural lands
- Encourage more self-sustaining suburbs
- Adopt a national vehicle emissions policy
- Introduce disincentives for driving vehicles into cities
- Encourage Councils to have Australian-made small domestic waste bins for domestic waste disposal.

Council wishes to commend the Committee on progressing such an important initiative and stresses the importance of the outcomes being supported by the Federal Government and also the State and Territory Governments. Should you require further information on any of the above comments or concerning Council's proposal for a case study, please contact Skye Addison, Natural Resources Team Leader, ph: 02 9976 1602.

Yours faithfully,


Jim Hunter
Director, Corporate Planning
and Strategy