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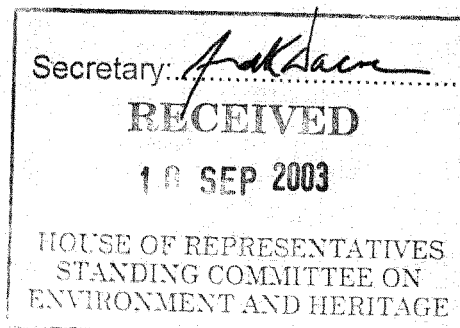
SUBMISSION NO. 7



Let's make
it happen

27 August 2003

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA



Dear Sir / Madam

City of Swan Submission – 'Inquiry into Sustainable Cities'

On 8 August 2003 the Federal Minister for Environment and Heritage announced that the Standing Committee for Environment and Heritage is to inquire into the development of sustainable cities. The committee has prepared a short discussion paper that identifies some of the issues the committee will be addressing in the inquiry. Please find below the City of Swan comments to the discussion paper "Sustainable Cities 2025 : A Blueprint for the Future".

The City of Swan has recently undertaken a long term strategic planning exercise for the City of Swan region to maintain and improve Quality of Life of all community members. This means planning to improve the social, economic and environmental aspects of our growing and diverse community.

"Foundations for the Future – Quality of Life in the City of Swan", defines what this means for the community and outlines a comprehensive set of goals and objectives that provide long term direction to achieve this in the City of Swan. As part of the 'Foundations for the Future' approach, a Quality of Life framework (Quality of Life wheel) was developed which provides the basis for planning according to sustainability principles. This considers the balance between environmental, social and economic factors in planning and decision making. The framework is a way of describing the complex interrelationships between community needs and integrating these needs into long term planning for the region. Please see the following link to access this document ;
http://www.cityofswan.com/council/documents/view_cat.asp?prof_cat_id=22&name=Strategic+Community+Planning+Project .

In 2002, the City of Swan won the National Office of Local Government award in the category of 'Sustaining our Communities - Local Agenda 21' for the Quality of Life Framework.

The City has now prepared a set of Strategy Papers which outlines some of the ways that the City, government agencies, the private sector and the community might work together towards a more sustainable future. These strategies are a framework for future decision making and are intended to form a resource for guiding decisions and action that will affect our future.

The Strategy papers have been prepared with the strategic directions of Commonwealth and State governments in mind. They also recognise that the role of government is changing and that communities need to become more self reliant and have extensive involvement in decision making. Importantly the strategies recognise there are limited resources both in government and the community to implement change, requiring us all to be innovative in the way we deliver services for and with our communities.

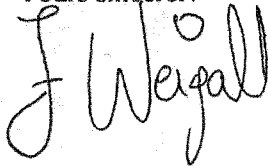
In summary, in reference to the discussion paper "Sustainable Cities 2025 : A Blueprint for the Future", the City of Swan would like to submit its Quality of Life Framework and associated strategies as a model by which objectives and implementation strategies may be developed.

The City would also raise the issues that six of the seven broad visionary objectives identified in the discussion paper are limited in terms of their application and inclusion of social and economic issues, and focuses on the environmental issues such as waste, energy use, bushland preservation, transport, and water use. A truly sustainable City would need to have an equal balance in its objectives between the economic, social and environment sectors, whilst recognising the strong role of the built and natural environment. Additionally the questions posed within the discussion paper are difficult not to answer on a place specific base, given the diversity of Australian communities and landscapes, and state planning legislation which guides development, and again seem primarily focused on environmental issues. The development of a sustainable City cannot consider environment, economic and social issues in isolation from each other.

The City would suggest that the Foundation for the Future document provides a direction for the Committee to address the two primary key issues of the discussion paper; industry, government and communities is how to balance these components, and what innovative alternatives or international models can usefully be applied to the Australian situation.

If you have any further queries on the above comments or attached documents, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fiona Weigall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fiona Weigall
Group Manager Community Planning
Strategic Community Development

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HELD BY THE SECRETARIAT

ATTACHMENT TO SUBMISSION NO. 7

Attachment 1 - Overview of Community Strategies July 2002

Attachment 2 - Draft Community Strategies March 2003

Attachment 3 - Community Strategies Questionnaire

Attachment 4 - Introduction to Community Strategies

Attachment 5 - Foundations for the Future - Goals and Objectives

Attachment 6 - Foundations for the Future - Full Report