

Robert Little, Inquiry Secretary.

Dear Robert,

thank you for the opportunity to comment. I fully support such an inquiry but would like to see conservation of biodiversity specifically included as a key element of sustainability. Without biodiversity conservation, the concept of sustainability is much reduced.

Retro-fitting of sustainability initiatives into existing buildings should be supported, as should intensive re-use of already-built-on land in preference to clearing land for spreading suburbs. See the report of the Pew Oceans committee on the effects of urban sprawl on coastal zones for details on how to manage land re-use to improve coastal outcomes - especially pertinent for a sea-change nation. Make retro-fitting as a part of renovations and extensions compulsory.

Urban builders should be encouraged to look more closely at styles from other similar-climate countries to generate more suitable and imaginative homes - eg. apartment buildings with central courtyards to function as cooling wind towers, such apartments to be built to the property boundary.

No more dams to be built but extensive retro-fitting of water reuse schemes, including no more ocean outfalls but recycle as drinking water or reuse as agricultural irrigation. There is no sense in capturing river water, treating it to drinking standard, using it, partly treating it back to the original intake standard and then discharging it to the ocean. We have the technology to close the water cycle and keep up a constant cycle of water for our use (while allowing the bulk to go to the environment) - let's use the technology.

Internalise the true costs instead of fudging the figures.

Susan Cunningham