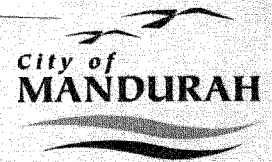
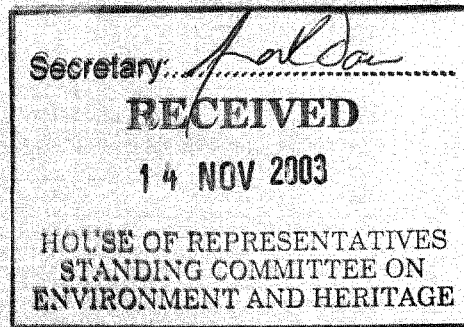


Enquiries: Tony Free
Our Ref:



11 November 2003

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Enquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025

Apologies for the lateness of this submission, I trust that it can still be considered by the Committee.

The City would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to provide input into this process.

The City of Mandurah is located 75 kilometres to the south of Perth in Western Australia and is a coastal community experiencing rapid urban growth. This is similar to many other coastal communities within close proximity to the capital city in their respective state. Mandurah's current population is approximately 50,000 and that is expected to grow to between 130,000 and 150,000 people over the next 30 to 40 years. Thus the issue of sustainable cities is a matter which is particularly relevant.

The City is encouraged that the Federal Government is taking an interest in the development of Australia's cities and is more specifically interested in the creation of sustainable cities. The City recognises that the discussion paper as noted by the Committee is not a definitive approach to the issues of a sustainable city in Australia. However it is noted that the terms of reference do refer to:

- The environmental and social impacts of sprawling urban development and also measures to reduce environmental, social and economic costs of continuing urban expansion.

However the City considers that the discussion paper does not adequately address the social/cultural issues relevant to urban development and the creation of sustainable cities. Also the economic aspects of the urban development process have not been addressed to the extent which the City considers they should be. The focus of the discussion paper appears to be largely related to environmental issues.

The paper does not appear to address the issues of crime prevention through design nor a healthy lifestyle through design.

Quality local

government

through a

commitment

to community

service.

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Discussion Paper Sustainable Citi

Although the concept of focussing the urban development around transport and commercial hubs does not appear to be covered in the visionary objectives. Specifically in terms of the visionary objectives which have been included, the following comments are made:

1. Preservation Bushland significant heritage and urban green zones.

The green spaces which are provided within a sustainable city need to be accessible to the community. They need to relate to the community which is expected to use them. The space needs to be safe and this can relate to the design of the surrounding roads and houses. Also the open space needs to be adaptable over time to respond to the changing demographics of the population which uses these green spaces. A critical issue in terms of bushland preservation is that the bushland which is preserved, should be preserved in a manner which protects the Biodiversity contained within it. Green spaces also provide an opportunity for their to be a recognition of the cultural and indigenous heritage of the local area.

2. Ensure equitable access to and efficient use of energy including renewable energy sources.

All new homes should be required to as far as practical incorporate passive solar design elements. This can also relate to the orientation of lots to ensure that the subdivision design is such that it allows for this. Consideration should be given to providing incentives for individual householders to receive rebates if they use solar power.

3. Establishment of an integrated sustainable water and stormwater management system addressing capture, consumption, treatment and the reuse opportunities.

All stormwater within an urban area should be treated in accordance with water sensitive design principles. Opportunities for the reuse of grey water need to be investigated at the local household level and from wastewater treatment plants. Discharge from wastewater treatment plants to the ocean should over time be phased out and other alternative uses found for that wastewater. Within individual buildings, water saving measures such as water efficient shower fittings should be incorporated and people need to be encouraged to use these facilities. There needs to be an assessment of the impact of the urban development process on our ground water.

4. Manage and minimise domestic and industrial waste.

It is critical that as much household and commercial waste as possible is recycled and that waste which goes to landfill is minimised. Opportunities to use landfill sites for energy production also needs to be encouraged.

5. Develop sustainable transport networks nodal complimentary and logistics.

Urban areas need to be designed within the intent that car dependency is reduced. The Federal Government should give serious consideration to the provision of high speed train travel between the capital cities and within capital cities between the respective airports and the central business areas of the capital cities.

6. Incorporate eco-efficient principles into new buildings and housing.

The incorporation into the Building Code of Australia of energy saving techniques should be further advanced. Also consideration needs to be given to how waste from building sites can be minimised.

7. Develop urban plans that accommodate lifestyle and business opportunities.

Within communities a variety of lot sizes and dwelling types should be provided, to ensure that there is a mix of the demographic within each estate. Serious consideration needs to be given to how our ageing population will be housed and is our housing stock adaptable to accommodate the ageing population.

In summary, any discussion on sustainable cities needs to be wider in its approach than what has currently been provided. Consideration of the cultural aspects of cities also needs to be included, ie the impact and importance of community activities and festivities. The City of Mandurah has recently prepared a draft Sustainability Checklist for new residential estates. A copy is enclosed for your consideration.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact myself on 9550 3821 or email tony-f@mandurah.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Free
Director Planning and Sustainability

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HELD BY THE COMMITTEE

ATTACHMENT TO SUBMISSION NO. 130

**ATTACHMENTS, APPENDICES AND PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED WITH
SUBMISSIONS ARE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE OFFICE**