

## Queensland, Australia

### Government:

Australia's governments have worked together to develop the National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment. Government is committed to implementing the Strategy throughout Australia to improve environmental management that to ensure Ecologically sustainable development (ESD) becomes a part of all its programs and is adopted by the general community. The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development defines ESD as development which aims to meet the needs of Australians today, while conserving the ecosystems for the benefit of future generations

The Commonwealth Government and State Governments worked together to produce *the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment* to provide more detail on implementing ESD in Australia.

The objectives of ecologically sustainable development (ESD):

- To enhance individual and community well-being and welfare by following a path of economic development that safeguards the welfare of future generations
- To provide for equity within and between generations
- To protect biological diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems

Principles of ESD:

- Incorporating ESD in decision-making
- The precautionary principle

### Entrepreneur:

State government supports industry development by assisting industry to:

- Identify and promote long-term market objectives, a generic product name and image and available processing technologies; and
- Develop an implementation manual outlining procedures for selection of green and organic management strategies based on sustainable markets;

The Commonwealth Government is committed to:

- Establishing a national policy framework; and
- Providing financial incentives for process and market development through grants, subsidies, commercial loans and taxation incentives.

The commercial industry sector needs to:

- Address compliance and cleaner production issues;
- Provide capital and infrastructure for collection and processing of green and organic wastes;
- Provide technical solutions for green and organic processing and recycled organic products marketing; and
- Develop market outlets for processed recycled organic products.

Market development requires:

- The strategic development of long-term markets for: landscape and home garden mulch and compost; renewable energy generation from biofuels; composted organics to supply a source of organic carbon for agricultural soil restoration; and lime stabilized organic for acid soil amelioration;
- The development of a quality image for horticultural and agricultural recycled organic products that could be used in conjunction with existing and new proprietary brand names, to encompass processing, quality control, products and target markets; and
- A manual that would include methodology for waste audit and process selection to produce recycled organic products suitable for identified markets is required.

Introduction of ecoBiz:

ecoBiz is the EPA's signature partnership program with Queensland business and industry. ecoBiz assists businesses identify efficiencies in waste, water and energy for financial and environmental benefits.

The ecoBiz program uses a process of identifying and measuring water, energy and material resource saving opportunities to assist companies to achieve increased profitability and sustainability.

### **Technologies:**

Environmental Management:

The Environmental Protection Agency deals with a wide range of environmental matters including protecting air, water and soil quality, managing waste, preventing or controlling pollution, managing the state's coastline, and promoting sustainable industry. Environmental planning and research helps improve the environment which included the following programs:

- Public Place Recycling Program – "Do the Right thing, Use the Right bin"

- Establishing Environment Guidelines – help administering authorities like the Environmental Protection Agency and local government implement the Environmental Protection Act, its associated regulations and environmental protection policies.
- Sustainable Queensland – Promotion of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)
- Waste and Recycling Program
- Sustainable Water Program – About the Queensland Water Recycling Strategy
- Sustainable Energy Program – free, independent information and advice on energy efficiency and renewable power
- Natural Resource Management – Sustainable outcomes in coastal management, water quality and biodiversity planning
- Environmental management in Korea – Insights and observations from the 2007 Australia-Korea Young Leaders Exchange Program

#### Technology Advancement:

- Introduction of EcoBus

In the search for alternative forms of transport energy, many governments and vehicle manufacturers have identified hydrogen as one of a range of likely future energy sources. When used in fuel cells, hydrogen produces no pollutants with the only emissions being water and heat. In certain applications hydrogen has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to improve the security of supply of transport fuel, and to stabilize fuel prices.

In recognising the potential benefits of hydrogen, the State Government of Australian through the Department for Planning & Infrastructure (DPI) conducted a trial of three hydrogen fuel cell buses, known as EcoBuses. This was the first significant use of hydrogen as a transport fuel on public roads in Australia and to support the trial DPI established the only hydrogen supply and refuelling infrastructure in the southern hemisphere.

#### Public Engagement:

- Ecoaccess

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has redesigned the way it handles environmental licences and permits. This new approach is called Ecoaccess.

Ecoaccess benefits include:

- Consistent, high quality advice;
- Timely and transparent decision-making; and

- Streamlined access to information across the EPA.

Ecoaccess makes it easy for customers to do business with the EPA by offering a range of new and improved customer support services. When planning a project or activity that could impact on the environment, it is important to determine whether a license or permit is required. Ecoaccess Customer Service Unit always handy for public enquiry and call for assistance.

- Sustainable Industries Awards – Sustainability in Public Sector or Community Initiatives Award

This award is for government or community organisation achievements towards sustainability in partnership with industry. The Finalists for 2007 are included:

- City of Thuringowa: Thuringowa's Riverway precinct has become an icon for locals, and thanks to its sustainable design, the Riverway's QNI Eco Active Centre is a major feature of the precinct, showcasing sustainable lifestyle options and featuring a wind turbine and solar panels, as well as an educational area. This Eco Active Centre is a partnership between Thuringowa City Council, Queensland Nickel (QNI) and Ergon Energy.

- Redland Shire Council: Redland Shire Council has developed the Water and Waste Business Efficiency Program, and is proactively engaging local businesses to develop long-term sustainable strategies like water efficiency and recycling. To date, 60 businesses are saving 129,000 litres of water a day through the program, which equates to 47 megalitres per year. Redland also took part in a 12-week expanded polystyrene (EPS) recycling trial, preventing over 600 cubic metres of EPS from ending up in landfill.

- Department of Public Works: A partnership between the Department of Public Works, local government and the housing industry has created a program to design and build 30 sustainable homes around the state for public display. The Sustainable Homes are open for six months as public education centres to showcase designs that meet the triple bottom line measures of sustainability – environmental, social and economic.

## REFERENCES

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