

ToC Sustainability Workshops in 2018

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Sustainability and climate change are associated issues. However, the climate change debate should not be part of the discussion at this workshop. The facts show that the climate is changing, but it is not relevant if this is due to anthropogenic causes or not. Sustainability is about conserving what we have and hopefully able to reverse some of the damage we have caused. The “we” being our forebears, us now and future generations. So sustainability is a system that ensures that after usage of goods there is **Zero Waste** for all categories, i.e. solids, liquids and gasses. That what we now call “waste” should be used as a resource for the next project.

In light of the above we have to start thinking and approaching issues differently.

- What should our view on “waste” be (Rau, 2013 ; Rau & Obehuber, 2017)?
 - Who is responsible for it?
 - Why to have waste in the first place?
 - Who pays for waste disposal?

An example is the water Watercorp dumps in the ocean from the Herdsman Drain and Subiaco Drain, that water is a waste product. Therefore, it is their responsibility to dispose of it correctly; in this case re-injecting their waste water in aquifers to replenish them would be a good solution. The extra cost should be part of the paying for externalities. This is the argument the ToC has to take to Watercorp regarding the cost of water injection at Perry Lakes.

We have to make sure we define what ‘sustainable’ is. In business the word sustainability is regularly used, but with that they do not necessarily mean the same as an environmentalist. It is often used as greenwashing or just meaning that the business sustains making a profit (Schaltegger & Burritt, 2010).

When ToC acts “sustainable” it will result in the continued existence and flourishing of our “**Garden Suburbs**”.

Sustainability issues to be broken into two streams

- **Longterm approach**
 - Do we want the same or at least similar urban settings for the next generations?
 - So, what needs to be done to achieve that? In a fast changing world conventional solutions and planning for the status quo will not suffice (Seba, 2017).
 - Can we keep going as we do now? It is the easiest to continue following the status quo instead of making bold decisions which would mean showing leadership
 - In 2018 it is not acceptable any more to argue that economics for governments and companies are more important than the environment. Governments have to start paying for externalities, as do companies. In Wikipedia the definition of externality is given as follows : “In economics, an **externality** is the cost or benefit that affects a party who did not choose to incur that cost or benefit. Economists often urge governments

to adopt policies that ‘internalize’ an externality, so that costs and benefits will affect mainly parties who choose to incur them”. The concept of paying for externalities is not new; in 1920 it was suggested by Arthur Pigou. Now taxes raised to cover these types of costs were named after him, namely ‘pigouvian taxes’, a current example would be a carbon tax, which is basically a levy on a polluting gaseous waste product. Externalities are in the end paid for by the taxpayer in other words they pay for an organizations waste. The ToC should start incorporating these concepts in their financial statements. If the ToC wishes to become sustainable it has to start looking at accounting for externalities. **Good references for this subject are Antheaume (2004), Bebbington & Larrinaga (2014), Gray (2010) and Zhou et al. (2017).** Initially it may difficult to be part of the standard accounting reports, but it could be incorporated when data gathering for the budget and financial report and put out an addendum to show the costs of externalities

- We can morally and ethically not call ourselves “sustainable” if we do everything inside our boundaries “sustainably” but dump our waste over the border, in the air or push all environmental liabilities into the future for the next generations to deal with.
- Incorporating the accounting for externalities in the ToC would show leadership.

- **Immediate actions**

- For the ToC to ensure that any planning strategy encompasses futurists’ outlook in addition to the ordinary scenarios. That is proper long term scenario planning. Not like in the Local Planning Strategy process last year where only “status quo” scenarios were proposed. This is especially important in relation to the environment issues and changes in technologies.
- Increase canopy cover and greenspace in the town.
 - Use CSIRO’s data (15cm resolution) to identify changes of canopy cover between years, as explained by WAPC’s Urban Forest publication (WAPC, 2014). Use it as a planning tool.
- Start making ToC a Biophilic town by encouraging and mandating more greenery. In urban planning have the requirement of minimum 30% “greenspace” horizontally or equivalent vertically (Beatley, 2017; Matan & Newman, 2017; Söderlund & Newman, 2015).
- Perry lakes to be “refilled” with excess water from Watercorp’s Subiaco Drain via groundwater injection. The increasing of the water table will also have a positive effect on the water tables towards lake Monger.
- Watercorp’s Herdsman Drain runs basically through the Wembley Golfcourse, what a better way to use this water for irrigation of the golf course instead of being dumped in the ocean. If the drain should contain too much water for the golf course irrigation,

inject the rest of the water into the sand-dunes to refill the freshwater wedge near the coast.

- In regards to Perry Lakes Watercorp is very reluctant to provide any money. And they should pay since they are disposing of “waste water”. Even though the maintenance of Perry Lakes is the towns responsibility it is a State issue to coordinate and ensure that the health of the remaining wetlands in Perth metropolitan area. ToC to ask WA Government to take leadership on that.
- ToC to have no more above ground sprinklers, except in grassed areas like sporting fields. For all other areas only subsurface irrigation.
- ToC put pressure on Watercorp and Dep Water to reduce number of private bores and to have them all metered. Then water extraction can be monitored for the shallow aquifers when the private bores get their water from. A continuation of the lowering watertable will be detrimental to our “Garden Suburbs”, especially in City Beach. In a coastal dune area it is essential to keep the shallow aquifer topped up, to avoid salt intrusion.
- All streets should have tree lined footpaths to encourage walking. Median strip crossings should be wide enough for a pram or pushbike to wait comfortably and safely (Donovan, 2018; Speck, 2013).
- Implement the philosophy that all road users are equally important. That means there should not be a hierarchical system where vehicles are the main roaduser and the needs for pedestrians and cyclists are after thoughts (Walker, 2017).
- Verge collections : Currently only two pile ‘green’ and ‘waste’. The waste-pile should be further separated in recyclables like metal and cardboard and collected accordingly. There is a need for an education program because many people that does not seem to understand what and how they can avoid recyclables going to the tip.
- Participate in trial of clear rubbish bins by Mindarie Regional Council
<https://www.perthnow.com.au/news/wa/perth-suburbs-set-to-trial-clear-bins-in-the-face-your-waste-campaign-ng-b88810514z>

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