

Sustainable Development and the LGA

Sustainability or:

Its been raining a long time now where is the sunshine?

What are we talking about today?

the big picture/influences/context

statements in the Local Government Act

the exciting bit – making it real

The context

Environment in critical zone – water use, quality, air

Climate stress – Stern report, IPCC report, MfE guide to LG on climate change

Population stress – 4 cities of 1M in 1995, 200 cities of 1M, 100 cities between 1-10M, 500 cities of more than 10M in 2000

Energy source changes and increasingly expensive energy intensive supply chains

Economic stress – gap between rich and poor

Resource stress – more resources per person,

The context

Is BAU the answer?

Sustainability is the search for mutually reinforcing systems, not tradeoffs, not sustaining the status quo.

“Environmental mitigation is a movement against pollution etc while sustainability is a movement towards new actions and behaviours. It’s about living on the planet’s interest, and getting more from less.”

Morgan Williams, when PCE Commissioner

The how

All very well, but how to make it real?

Where are the levers for change?

- Legislation
- Political will
- Looking for win/wins for each wellbeing in decision-making
- Accessing the 'common wisdom'

The how

A sustainable development approach and an evidence-informed

Concepts, analysis, planning – not about forecasting the future, but building resilience

Systems – from engagement in community processes to decision-making and budget allocations (prioritisation)

Assumptions – about the future, impact of current events

Performance and feedback loops

The how in Local Govt

Decision making processes – what's taken into account?

Integrated four wellbeings, linking activities to outcomes
asking the hard question why?

Assumptions – challenge the status quo – are road signs
really effective? The 'what if...' question.

Asset Management Plans – up front planning costs?
Procurement policies? Briefs to consultants?

Consultation and engagement – same stalwarts or fresh
energy?

Performance Management Frameworks – do they tell you
about a range of impacts? If something isn't working now
would you know?

The how in Local Govt

Sustainability (s10)

- Enable democratic decision-making
- Promote social, economic, environmental & cultural well-being

Sustainable development approach s14(1)(h)

- Take account of:
- Social, economic, cultural wellbeing
 - Environmental maintenance, enhance
 - Future generations

Decision-making (ss77,78)

LTCCP process and planning

Document

Implementation



Information sources

SOLGM Sustainable Development Guide

MfE Climate Change guidance

Landcare CarbonZero program

The Natural Step www.naturalstep.org

ICLEI – Local govts for sustainability www.iclei.org

Global Reporting Initiative UK www.globalreporting.org

EU site with examples www.sd-network.eu

Capitalism as if the World Matters Porritt