



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities

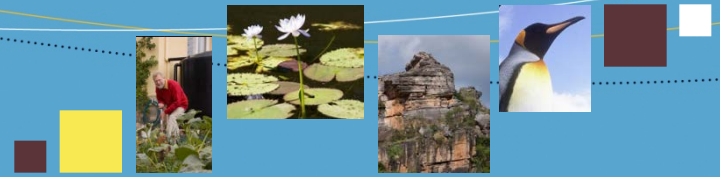


---

# Roundtable on Future Activities on Environmentally Sustainable Cities – Australia

Bruce Edwards  
Assistant Secretary, Environment Quality Division

Rock art (C.Zwick)



# Overview and background

## ■ 2010 Election

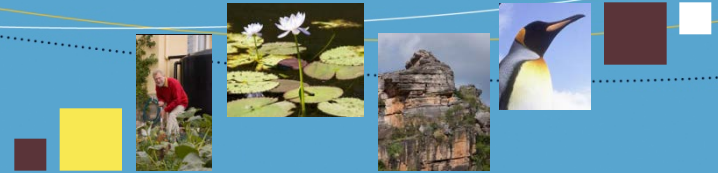
- Commitment to develop measures of sustainability to help inform communities and decision makers.

## ■ May 2011

- Release of *Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities, A Population Strategy for Australia*.

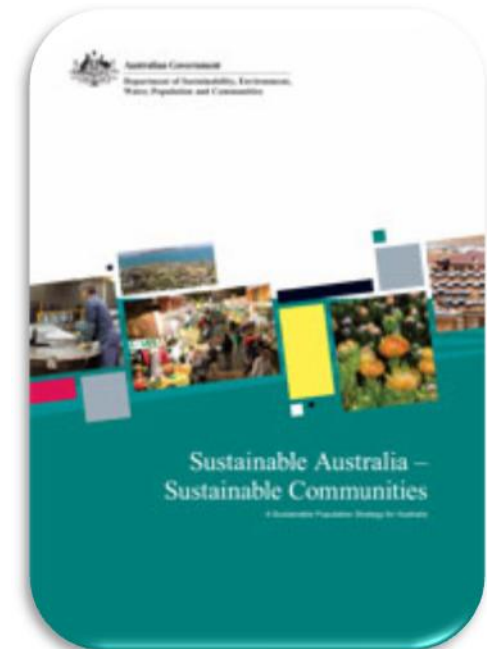
## ■ 2011-12 Budget

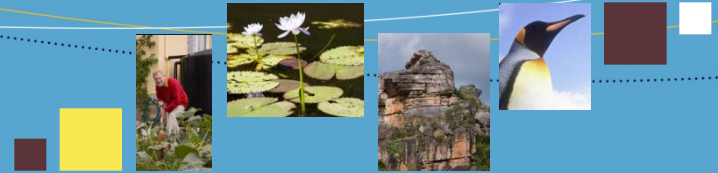
- Several measures supporting the Strategy, including \$10.1m over four years for the *Measuring Sustainability Program*. Key product is the development of sustainability indicators for Australia (as discussed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> HLS ESC)



# Australian Government initiatives

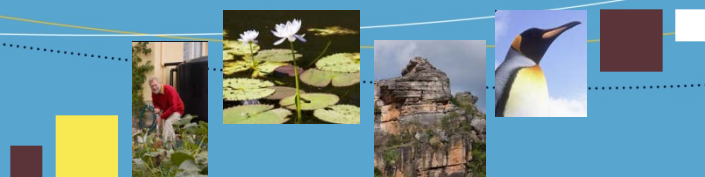
- Measuring Sustainability
- Sustainability Indicators
- National Sustainability Council
- Suburban Jobs
- Sustainable Regional Development Program
- Liveable Cities and Urban Renewal Program
- World Environment Day Awards
- Infrastructure Rating Tool
- Green Star – Communities
- Smart Grid, Smart City





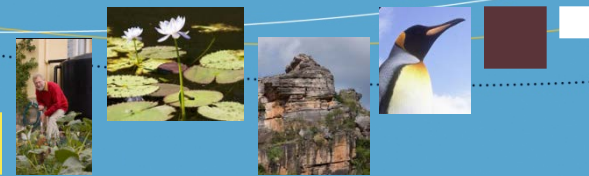
# Measuring Sustainability

- \$10.1 million Measuring Sustainability program
- Aims to improve access to information about our economy, environment and society, and the linkages between them, to better inform decisions and policy making.
- There are two parts to the program:
  - the development and ongoing measurement of a set of sustainability indicators for Australia
  - establishment of a National Sustainability Council.



# Sustainability Indicators

- Developed in order to provide reliable, relevant and accessible information about our:
  - social and human capital (skills and education; health; employment; security; institutions, governance and community engagement)
  - natural capital (climate and atmosphere; land, ecosystems and biodiversity; natural resources; water; waste)
  - economic capital (wealth and income; housing; transport and infrastructure; productivity and innovation).



# Indicator projects around Australia

## National

- [Measures of Australia's Progress - ABS](#)
- [Australian Social Trends Indicators - ABS](#)
- [State and Territory Indicators - ABS](#)
- [National Regional Profiles - ABS](#)
- [Australian Unity Wellbeing Index](#)
- [COAG National Agreements](#)
- [Measuring the Economic Wellbeing of Australia's Regions – Dept. of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government](#)
- [Australian National Development Index](#)
- [Australian Community Indicators Network](#)
- [National Growth Areas Alliance](#)
- My Region – Dept. of Infrastructure and Transport
- [Sustainability Indicators – Dept. of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population & Communities \(SEWPaC\)](#)
- [State of Australian Cities - Dept. of Infrastructure and Transport](#)
- [State of the Environment Report - SEWPaC](#)
- [Sustainable Tourism CRC Legacy Project \(Australian Tourism Sustainability Performance Indicators – Institute for Sustainable Futures\)](#)
- [Australian Social Inclusion Board](#)

## Northern Territory

- [Territory 2030](#)

## Queensland

- [Queensland Happiness Index](#)
- [Towards Q2 - Tomorrow's Queensland](#)
- [Social Wellbeing Listing - Office of Economics and Statistical Research](#)
- [Community Indicators Queensland](#)
- [LGQ - Community Wellbeing Indicators](#)
- [Queensland State of the Environment](#)

## South Australia

- [Strategic Plan Progress Report](#)
- [SA EasyData](#)
- [South Australian Wellbeing Index – SA Government](#)
- [Economic and Social Indicators - South Australian Centre for Economic Studies](#)
- [SA State of the Environment](#)

## Redland City

- [Community Indicators](#)

## Brisbane

- [Living in Brisbane 2026](#)

## New South Wales

- [NSW State of the Environment](#)
- [NSW State Plan](#)

## Hunter Valley

- [Wellbeing Watch](#)

## Newcastle

- [Newcastle 2030](#)

## Australian Capital Territory

- [ACT State of the Environment](#)
- [The Canberra Plan](#)

## City of Sydney

- [Community Indicators Framework](#)

## Waverley Council

- [Waverley Together 2](#)

## Moreland City

- [Community health and wellbeing](#)

## Hurstville City

- [Hurstville Snapshot](#)

## Yarra Ranges

- [Community Indicators](#)

## Greater Dandenong

- [Health and Wellbeing in our city](#)

## Wyndham City

- [Quality Community Plan](#)

## Glenorchy City

- [Community Plan](#)

## Mornington Peninsula

- [Community Plan](#)

## Tasmania

- [Tasmania Together](#)
- [Tasmania State of the Environment](#)

## Victoria

- [Growing Victoria Together](#)
- [Indicators of Community Strength](#)
- [Community Indicators Victoria](#)
- [Victoria State of the Environment](#)

## City of Onkaparinga

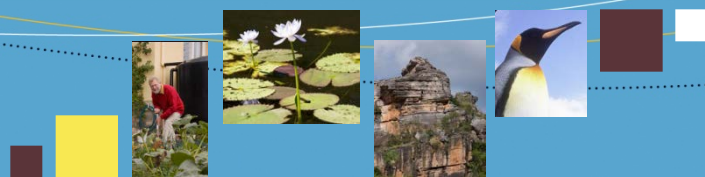
- [Community Wellbeing Monitor](#)

## Western Australia

- [WA State of the Environment](#)

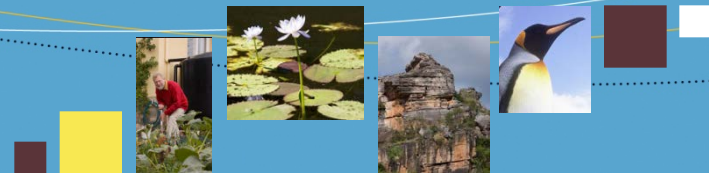
Map :ABS.





# National Sustainability Council

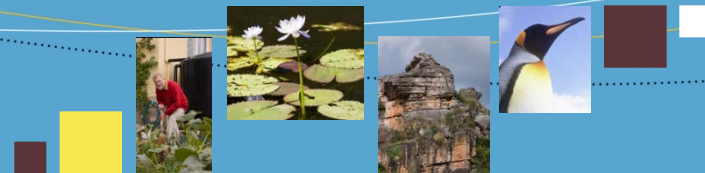
- Established in October 2012 as an independent, expert body to provide advice on sustainability issues.
- Key role is to deliver a public report against the sustainability indicators for Australia every two years, and provide advice to the Government when requested.
- Also responsible for advising on improvements to the indicators over time.



# National Waste Policy – Less Waste, More Resources

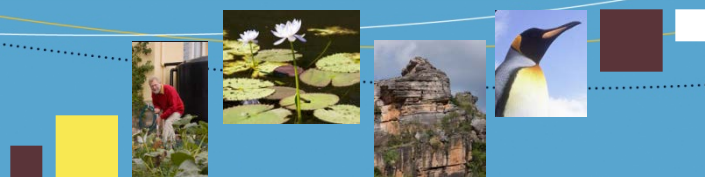
- Sets the direction for Australia over the next 10 years
  - Produce less waste for disposal and manage waste as a resource to deliver economic, environmental and social benefits.
  - Establishes a comprehensive work program for national coordinated action on waste across six key areas:
    - Reducing hazard and risk
    - Tailoring solutions
    - Providing the evidence
    - Taking responsibility
    - Improving the market
    - Pursuing sustainability.





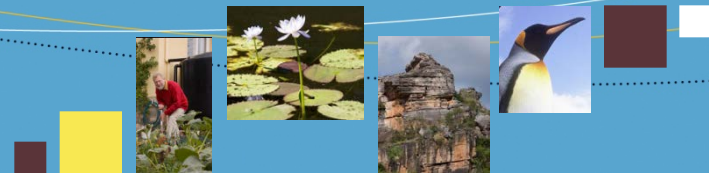
## Suburban Jobs

- Another measure announced under the Sustainable Australia – Sustainable Communities strategy
- Supporting the development of new employment precincts in the outer areas of our major cities to help provide jobs closer to residential areas, and reduce long commuting times.
- Three successful projects have now been announced:
  - University of Western's Sydney's \$29.5 million Werrington Park Corporate Centre in Penrith
  - City of Playford's \$16.6 million Stretton Centre project in Playford
  - City of Melton's \$21 million Western Business Accelerator and Centre for Excellence in Melton.



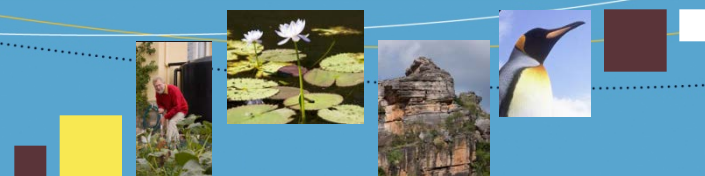
## Smart Grid, Smart City

- Deliver Australia's first commercial-scale smart grid
- Around 55,000 selected households have been participating in trials
  - Energy storage units, wind turbines, smart meters, in-home displays and smart phone applications in the household
  - Access to discounts and rebates for paying power bills early and reducing energy use during peak periods



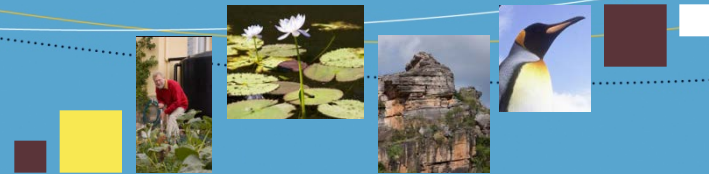
# Liveable Cities and Urban Renewal Program

- \$20 million over two years
- Fund seventeen different projects across Australia, focussing mainly on planning and research
  - Making outer suburbs of our major cities more productive, sustainable and resilient
  - Planning for urban renewal in several major city centres
  - Planning for improved access to selected city centres, encouraging more people to walk or cycle
  - Researching improved public transport options in selected areas, including rail and light rail.



## Green Star - Communities

- Voluntary rating tool which can be applied to community and precinct-wide developments to assess and certify sustainability.
- Independent, transparent, national schemes able to assess the sustainability of community-level projects.
- Developed in consultation with all levels of government, public and private sector developers, professional services providers, academia, product manufacturers and suppliers and other industry groups.



## Further information

---

- Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities [www.environment.gov.au](http://www.environment.gov.au)
- Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency [www.climatechange.gov.au](http://www.climatechange.gov.au)
- Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism [www.ret.gov.au](http://www.ret.gov.au)
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) [www.csiro.au/](http://www.csiro.au/)