

Submission No. 22
 Received 31/03/05

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
AGENCY POSITIONS ON SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

The NSW Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee has set up an Inquiry into Sustainability Reporting (SR) in NSW Government agencies and has requested submissions. The Minister's Office has asked DoH to coordinate a response by 25 October 04 to DoH Executive.

Landcom and AHO responses are required by 18 October 04 to Mark Singer, Manager Asset Policy & Technical Advice on mark.singer@housing.nsw.gov.au or 8753 8700 (fax). Please ring Mark on 8753 8707 if you have any questions on this matter.

Sustainability reporting ('Triple Bottom Line reporting') integrates economic, social and environmental accounting. The Inquiry will review current requirements and examine compliance and auditing processes, as a 'whole of government' approach to sustainability reporting.

The Premier's Department carried out a sustainability survey of agencies in November 2003 on 'whole of government' commitments made in 1998 to:

- Integrate environmental protection into all activities,
- Encourage economic development and sustainable employment,
- Achieve greater social justice for the whole community,
- Deliver programs that reduce government debt and unfunded liabilities.

The Terms of Reference requires the Committee to report on a number of issues noted in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Terms of Reference and agency responses (summary)

<i>terms of reference</i>	<i>DoH position</i>	<i>Landcom position</i>	<i>AHO position</i>
Current requirements for SR?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom Corporation Act 2001 states the requirements for environmental sustainability reporting. ▪ Landcom's Annual Corporate Plans have included triple bottom line (TBL) reporting requirements since 2000. ▪ Landcom has published annual Sustainability Reports for 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 based on its TBL reporting commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Mandatory compliance with SR and monitoring?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apart from the annual Sustainability reports, Landcom is also required to prepare and submit a biennial WRAPP report to NSW EPA and has done so for 1998-2000 and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

		<p>2001-2003.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ WRAPP report data are also included in Landcom annual Sustainability Reports. ▪ Landcom also has 34 sustainability indicators against which performance is reported in its annual Sustainability Reports. ▪ All Landcom projects are monitored against these sustainability indicators. 	
Extent of SR in agency (ref. 1998 commitments)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom has implemented a comprehensive TBL framework which incorporates sustainability criteria in business decision making, project planning and delivery, project reporting and corporate reporting (see indicators and targets attached). ▪ Landcom's sustainability indicators and targets encompass the "whole of government" commitments made in 1998. 		
SR to other Parliamentary reporting?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom's annual Sustainability reports are tabled by the Minister in the Parliament together with its Annual Reports in November of each year. ▪ Reports are submitted to the Minister by 30 October of each year. 		
Any SR audit/verification processes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom's annual Sustainability reports are independently audited and verified by URS Australia. ▪ Verification Statement is included in the published Sustainability reports. 		
SR/action links?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Actions for improving Landcom's sustainability performance are listed in each annual Sustainability Reports with implementation timeframes. ▪ These actions relate to development projects as well as holistic corporate 		

<p>Central agency tools? Adequacy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<p>Who is the Central agency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom as part of its TBL Program has developed reporting guidelines and tools which are used by its staff, consultants, contractors and development partners. ▪ Landcom also provides a biennial WRAPP report to NSW EPA in accordance with their reporting spreadsheet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
<p>Any SR initiatives in agency?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom has several social and environmental sustainability initiatives which were outlined in a previous report prepared for the Premier's Department (see copy attached). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
<p>Processes to integrate SR dimensions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom has integrated sustainability into its business decision making process through its strategic planning and annual Corporate Plans. ▪ Sustainability decision making has been integrated into Landcom's core business processes (see process diagram attached). ▪ Sustainability criteria are incorporated into selection of all key service providers such as project managers, civil works and landscape contractors. ▪ Sustainability criteria are incorporated into tender documents for selection of development partners and builders. ▪ All built form design guidelines also include sustainability criteria such as water and energy efficiency. ▪ WRAPP requirements are also incorporated into corporate purchasing policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
<p>Generic or specific</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom has 15 project-specific 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

<p>sustainability indicators?</p>		<p>sustainability indicators against which performance of each development project is reported (see TBL indicators and targets attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom also has 19 corporate sustainability indicators that relate to corporate governance, economic development and financial sustainability. ▪ See 2002/2003 Sustainability Report attached. ▪ All Landcom's sustainability indicators were determined in an extensive consultation process in 2001 followed by a 30-day public exhibition. The Consultation Report "Towards Sustainability" was published in 2002. 	
<p>Communication of SR practice in agency? Processes?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Landcom's sustainability requirements are communicated through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff induction training on sustainability. ○ Ongoing staff training and discussion forums. ○ Through Landcom's Innovation Program and Innovation Focus Group. ○ Knowledge briefing sessions held every month. ○ Regular presentations from sustainable product and service providers. ○ Annual presentation of the results of the Sustainability Reports. ○ Project visioning workshops for all development projects. ○ Project peer review workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External project review panel for all major projects. ○ Independent post-project reviews. 	
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NOTES

- detailed responses on particular issues could be provided as attachments.
- Economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability may include:
 - CSHA indicators eg client satisfaction surveys
 - Environmental indicators/measurements eg WSUD
 - Social justice programs
 - Financial reporting requirements
 - Sustainability reporting pilots or TBL models in use?
 - agency steering groups etc

thanks,
 Mark Singer
 mark.singer@housing.nsw.gov.au