

EMS: Sustainability Strategy

URBANGROWTH NSW'S SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

Sustainability is not a static concept for UrbanGrowth NSW. The Corporation recognises that a culture of sustainable practice must be integrated into all of its business decision-making processes – from buying computers for administrative use to developing major suburbs. As an organisation, UrbanGrowth NSW is committed to legal compliance and continual improvement of its environmental performance.

UrbanGrowth NSW's Corporate Plan is an important tool for the delivery of the organisation's vision and mission, forming a bridge between the commitment to social, environmental and economic sustainability and the planning required for the day-to-day delivery of its products and services. Sustainable development and sustainability performance reporting are among the Corporation's "top ten" corporate priorities, emphasising the fact that UrbanGrowth NSW's commitment to sustainable outcomes is not simply rhetoric.

While sustainability reporting alone does not guarantee sustainable outcome, it facilitates the integration of sustainability criteria into UrbanGrowth NSW's decision-making by enabling the Corporation to observe the real social, environmental and economic outcomes of its decisions. Importantly, it facilitates continual improvement to ensure that UrbanGrowth NSW adheres to its sustainable development commitment.

Accordingly, UrbanGrowth NSW adopts the following four key sustainability-guiding principles that go beyond minimum regulatory compliance:

1. Deliver a sustainable quality of life
2. Conserve resources
3. Protect biodiversity
4. Minimise pollution

UrbanGrowth NSW's objective is to achieve the sustainability targets that have been developed from these guiding principles.

Sustainability performance criteria and targets based on the guiding principles are compulsory requirements in all tender specifications for the selection of builders and developer partners. They are also part of the formal evaluation of tender bids. For service providers such as project managers, civil works and landscape contractors, sustainability criteria are part of a pre-qualification process, ensuring that only those organisations with acceptable sustainability experience and credentials are included in the tender process.

UrbanGrowth NSW's entire sustainability strategy follows on from the four key guiding principles. For example, sustainable design and development criteria are developed for design consultants, builders and developer partners such as the *Energy Smart Communities Policy*, the *Water Sensitive Urban Design Policy*, *Moderate-Income Housing Policy* and *Community Consultation Workbook*.

Since 2002 each UrbanGrowth NSW project has been monitored against sustainability criteria and performance targets through the sustainability reporting programme. The public reporting of UrbanGrowth NSW's performance against these goals will make the Corporation more accountable by allowing stakeholders to question results, to better understand the constraints that UrbanGrowth NSW faces and to challenge the Corporation to strive harder.

UrbanGrowth NSW's journey to sustainability reporting has focused the entire organisation not only on its performance, but also on its commitment to sustainability. Sustainability reporting has made sustainability an integral component of every project and therefore a key factor in the evaluation of UrbanGrowth NSW's performance as well as that of its consultants, contractors, builders and developer partners.