

Secretary: *Rob Little*

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

SUBMISSION NO. 8

Wendy Gleen

Environment and Heritage Committee
House of Representatives,
Parliament House,
Canberra.

20th March, 2006

NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER DISCUSSION PAPER

SUBMISSION

I have read the discussion paper and am pleased that the issue of sustainability is being recognised as a serious issue. I have the following comments:

True ecological sustainability by any definition cannot be achieved if both the human population* and economy (including society's material expectations) are set on a course of limitless growth. I ask that the key elements of the sustainability charter recognise and address these two issues.

Given the repeated warnings from scientists, the achievement of real sustainability by actually halting or even reversing the damage being inflicted on our environment is an urgent imperative. As stated in the paper this means 'adopting a lifestyle within the planets means'. I do not feel that the discussion paper recognises the enormity of this statement or reflects the drastic measures it entails.

Yours Sincerely,



Wendy Gleen

* It is a fact that Australia's population is growing by both natural increase and immigration; refer to Bureau of Statistics data (or for first hand experience, visit your local housing estate (ex farm/bushland) or hop in to your local transport corridor)