

Appendix – Recommendations of the ISOS conferences

This appendix contains selected extracts and all of the 33 recommendations that were contained in the communiqué from the 2003 ISOS ('In Search Of Sustainability') internet and face-to-face conferences co-hosted by Australia 21, Nature and Society Forum and Sustainable Population Australia. The full communiqué can be downloaded from the conference website: <www.isosconference.org.au>.

Australians are not living sustainably and we are part of a shrinking and interconnected world that is becoming increasingly hostile to the long-term survival of our species.

In moving towards a sustainable future, we need to ensure that we:

- avoid eroding the natural resource base
- provide substantial global equality of opportunity
- have some sort of cultural and spiritual foundation for the future
- keep the size of the human population within ecological limits.

In spite of growing recognition and action by Australian Governments and industry in these matters, our society still falls far short of meeting these criteria.

The consensus emerging from the internet discussions which have been taking place during the past nine months between Australian experts and lay-people is that we must now, as a nation, make significant changes in the way we manage our social, economic and environmental assets.

The necessary changes need to be coordinated and integrated at all levels of government. Industrial and community bodies also need to be involved in the changes that will alter the way we govern and manage our lives. Our progress towards a more just and sustainable global society must be understood and monitored by all Australian citizens.

Material progress has been the dominant paradigm of modern Western societies like Australia. We have tended to view progress as a pipeline: pump more wealth in one end, and more welfare flows out the other. Economic growth in this outdated model is paramount.