

A glimpse of sustainable Freo

WHAT is sustainability? Everyone is talking about it, the majority of local candidates are advocating it, but what does it mean and how would it change Fremantle?

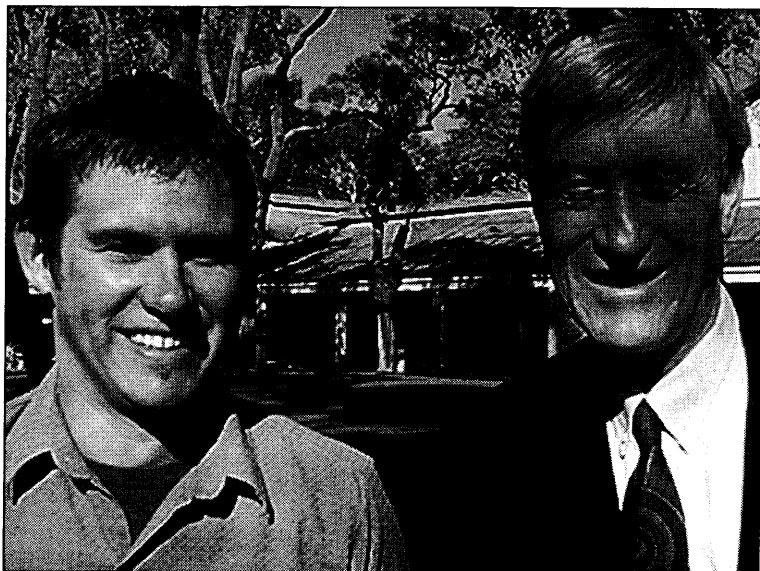
Here's a quick glimpse of what a sustainable Fremantle might look like in 2010 if we get it right.

It's a summer Saturday morning and after watering my native garden in White Gum Valley from my rainwater tank that doubles as an insulting wall to my house, I decide to head to Fremantle city. I jump on the new light rail that runs down South Street and South Terrace so regularly I don't even need a timetable. Who needs a car?

Sitting down to my organic, fair-trade coffee at Gino's I admire the new silent, clean hydrogen buses that glide by and the excellent new bicycle lanes that run both ways up South Terrace, now just a one-way street in central Fremantle. Shortly after Peter Newman joins me and we decide to wander down to Victoria Quay to have a look at the almost completed wind farm on Rous Head which adds a dramatic edge to Fremantle's skyline.

We agree it is a bold new statement of Fremantle's new claim to be the sustainability capital of Australia. The wind farm, in combination with the new super efficient street lighting, has meant Fremantle is almost self-sufficient in power, dramatically reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and its power bill.

Now that the port has moved the bulk of its functions to the outer harbour the whole of Victoria Quay has been reopened to the public and we are able to



• Dr Brad Pettitt and Professor Peter Newman.



FREMANTLE locals **DR BRAD PETTITT** and **PROFESSOR PETER NEWMAN** both hail from Murdoch University's world-renowned Institute for Sustainability and Technology Policy. Prof Newman is a former Freo councillor while Dr Pettitt is trying to become one, having a tilt in east ward at the elections this May. In this week's **THINKING ALLOWED**, the pair sketch what a sustainable Fremantle might look like in five years' time if we got cracking now.

walk along its whole length.

In the last few years

Fremantle has rapidly developed as a knowledge economy centre

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and less as an industrial port.

The bulk of the containers are now taken to the outer harbour port in Kwinana after community pressure about the

excessive burden on the transport infrastructure around the port. The Fremantle port continues to be active on North Quay but now the majority of containers are loaded onto trains. Jumping on the hydrogen CAT we head out to the new arts precinct that has been built on the old

Fremantle eastern bypass land, passing the FERN sustainability centre on the way.

The restored warehouses mixed with energy efficient, medium density houses have created a new centre for artists to work and live. Today's exhibition is celebrating the Dockers winning the AFL premiership for the third year in a row.

This is just one vision of what a sustainable Fremantle might look like. It will be a vision that meets the needs of current and future generations through integration of environmental protection, social advancement and economic prosperity.

Sustainability could take many forms, all better than the present, but one thing I am sure of is that it will be a city in which your carefully sorted recycling doesn't get put into landfill.