
From: Graham Wood
Sent: Thursday, 5 October 2023 5:38 PM
To: Policy
Subject: Submission to the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy
Attachments: Sustainability Strategy Submission Wood.pptx

Dear Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy Team:

Please accept this submission to the Tasmanian Sustainability Strategy.

There are two things that I think would be valuable additions to the sustainability strategy: (1) facilitated community discussions about what 'sustainability' means to different members of the Tasmanian community (accepting that there are many ways that 'sustainability' can be understood), and (2) offering community 'sustainability literacy' programs that help members of the Tasmanian community build what might be called 'sustainability literacy' or 'sustainability competencies' (again accepting that there are many ways that 'sustainability' can be understood). Building the 'literacy' or 'competency' of many members of the Tasmanian community means that the community as a whole would benefit from (1) individual members of the community understanding the issues at the heart of 'sustainability' and (2) each of those individuals being able to engage meaningfully with the risks and opportunities associated with a sustainable future.

I am happy to provide more detail on either of these suggestions, but to give a sense of how facilitated community discussions might be structured I have included a PowerPoint as an illustration.

Regards, Graham

Dr Graham Wood
Lecturer in Philosophy
University of Tasmania
Launceston Australia

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12 Questions:
to prompt reflection on a
Sustainability Strategy for
Tasmania

Graham.Wood@utas.edu.au

An invitation

As we engage in reflection upon and discussion of a sustainability strategy for Tasmania, I offer a set of 12 open questions.

There are many ways in which the theme of sustainability can be engaged with and discussed, and this leads to both risks and opportunities.

Risks include the fact that people can 'talk past' each other because they understand 'sustainability' differently.

Opportunities include the fact that new ways of engaging with the theme of 'sustainability' can emerge when 'sustainability' is understood differently.

One way to address both the risks and opportunities is to reflect upon a set of open questions in order to facilitate discussion, and importantly this can be undertaken at any scale and on any topic. Thus, I offer the following set of open questions:

<u>12 Questions</u>	Is	Is not	Ought	Ought not
What...	What is being sustained?	What is not being sustained?	What ought to be sustained?	What ought not to be sustained?
How...	How is it being sustained?	How is it not being sustained?	How ought it be sustained?	How ought it not be sustained?*
Why...	Why is it being sustained?	Why is it not being sustained?	Why ought it be sustained?	Why ought it not be sustained?

* To avoid ambiguity, this question is asking: how should it be ensured that this is not sustained?

So rather than assume what 'sustainability' means...

So rather than assume what 'sustainability' means for any person, the thought here is to invite individual/group reflection on (and possibly, group discussion of) these twelve questions in relation to a sustainability strategy for Tasmania.

Furthermore, the thought is to undertake this process without any expectation of what specific answers will emerge. The idea being that what sustainability means will emerge out of critical reflection on context, assumptions, perspectives, experiences, and values.

Some examples...

Here are some examples of how such discussions might go:

People considering the healthcare system in the context of a sustainability strategy for Tasmania, might find themselves discussing the sustainability/unsustainability of the healthcare system (or a particular dimension of it).

People considering the transport system in the context of a sustainability strategy for Tasmania, might find themselves discussing the sustainability/unsustainability of the transport system (or a particular dimension of it).

Other examples, at all scales and across all topics, easily come to mind.

I hope considering these 12 questions help us all in our deliberations.

Let's have a go...

<u>12 Questions</u>	Is	Is not	Ought	Ought not
What...	What is being sustained?	What is not being sustained?	What ought to be sustained?	What ought not to be sustained?
How...	How is it being sustained?	How is it not being sustained?	How ought it be sustained?	How ought it not be sustained?*
Why...	Why is it being sustained?	Why is it not being sustained?	Why ought it be sustained?	Why ought it not be sustained?

* To avoid ambiguity, this question is asking: how should it be ensured that this is not sustained?

What did you think of that?