

Policy and institutional reform for ecologically sustainable development

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1. Establish a multi-stakeholder forum for national, ongoing deliberation around long-term sustainability, instigate public finance and administrative measures to support long-term programs and refocus R&D on long-term national strategic issues.
2. Integrate the environment, society and economy in a national framework sustainability policy, higher order (strategic) policy assessment and robust whole-of-government mechanisms.
3. Clearly codify the precautionary principle in statute law and when developing policy implementation guidelines.
4. Account for global dimensions by deciding whether Australia should lead or lag, implementing international treaty commitments to world's best practice and meeting 0.7% GDP development aid goal guided by sustainability principles.
5. Use innovative policy approaches – improve the art and craft of policy instrument choice and evaluation of policy experiments; more use of systemic policy instruments; seek policy synergies.
6. Involve communities in an ongoing process of deliberation at national, sub-national and local scales, with agreed mandates and guarantees of longevity.
7. Decouple growth and environmental degradation via national- and industry-scale inquiries into opportunities for decoupling, and removal of barriers to, and creation of incentives for, large-scale efficiency gains.
8. Refashion the statutory framework via a comprehensive review of federal and state/territory legislation to ensure consistency with sustainability.
9. Renew and coordinate policy, with an R&D focus on soils, energy, coasts and urban areas.
10. Establish a bipartisan agenda to gain agreement on key long-term issues and directions, and to allow persistence and improvement beyond budget and electoral timeframes.