

Developing a working definition of sustainability for an infrastructure project

Lessons from the NSW urban rail sector

Jane Scanlon
Senior consultant
PhD candidate, School of Law, University of Western Sydney

Manidis Roberts

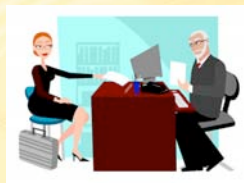
Presentation structure

- Aim and methodology.
- Why do we need a working definition?
- Actions and considerations.
- Next steps.

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Aim and methodology

- To outline important actions and considerations in developing a sustainability working definition for an infrastructure project.
- Not exhaustive.
- Consultancy experience.
- PhD interviews and research.



Source: www.excellentmonster.com

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A working definition – why?

- Sustainability – two levels of meaning.
- Project specifics.
- Who is this useful for?



Source: www.bids.nsw.gov.au



Source: www.theherald.com.au

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Understanding governance structures

- Siloed vs new authority.
- Scope of influence.
- “I am actually delivering concrete sleepers and stations, you’ve got to lower your aspirations because that is really all I can control” design general manager for a NSW transport authority

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Knowing the project actors and key stakeholders

- Who needs to be ‘in the room’?
- Try to be embedded.
- “Embedding the sustainability person within the actual design and engineering team so that they were always part of the design and development process was far more beneficial because they could put forward the views of the [project team] organisation and therefore have more influence” general manager of planning approvals for a NSW transport authority.

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Workshop and consultation activities

- Identify risks and opportunities.
- Benchmarking.
- Drawing the boundaries.
- Understand day to day activities of project team members.
- Build solid relationships.

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The Zealot

- “The key to being a good sustainability manager is being a pain but not a nasty pain...” design general manager for a NSW transport authority.

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Next steps

- Framework and strategy.
- Contractor performance requirements.
- Etc.
- AGIC's tool – can't wait!

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Questions?



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