Address to the Asia-Pacific Sustainability Summit

International Green Awards

August 20th 2012

...innovation through local skills, business and employment

-The key to our Community's future...
Council vision

leading region for sustainable economic development (see video)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqU0p_wBfbA

- destination of choice
- compete on a global scale
- access & effective use of high-speed ICT
- innovation focussed business and investment
By embracing the motto of people planet and profit businesses will flourish in a low carbon society
Positive business responses to issues of energy efficiency, water conservation, ethical business, family-friendly workplaces and labour relations will drive dual benefits for businesses.

Many Australians (84%) see committed action on these issues as providing an incentive to purchase their products and 74% identify such organisations as an employer of choice.*

*Living LOHAS 3 – Consumer Trends Report – Based on a sample of 2012 respondents
The professional development opportunity of the Sustainable Business Program promoted by Yarra Ranges Council skills offers businesses knowhow on how to improve bottom line by adopting sustainability principles.

The companies involved became leaders and examples of businesses that are able to progress in a society that requires low carbon and resource smart solutions.
Yarra Ranges Council’s Sustainable Business Program is a premier business leadership opportunity that has been assisting businesses since 2007 to profit from the opportunities offered by sustainable business practices.

The Program’s strength is through its delivery of experiential learning principles, aimed at equipping businesses (small to large) with the tools to adopt sustainable business growth strategies.

The Sustainable Business Program Logo can be utilised by all Program participants upon successful program completion.

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Content & knowhow

Content
- Workshops – 5 main themes
- Environmental assessment audits
- one-to-one
- online tools and templates

Knowhow
- Deliver financial savings
- Improve resource (materials, water, energy) efficiency and reduce carbon emissions
- Realise cost savings in waste disposal
- Create positive benefit for staff and customers
Companies & Outcomes
Where to next?

Council has some very clear thinking around addressing the three pillars that make up its own 3P commitment.

Adapting to a changing climate and energy future

**Our Objectives:**

- **Managing carbon pollution:** Pursue a target for reducing corporate greenhouse gas emissions by 30% on 2000 levels by 2020.
- **Adapting to climate change:** Build resilience to climate change by investing in action that will minimise financial, social and environmental impact on Council’s infrastructure and services.
- **Promoting an energy transition:** Reduce Council’s exposure to peak oil risk and transition towards strategies that reduce the reliance on oil.

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Questions?

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