PIA POSITION

Australia’s current consumption of fossil fuels for transport, houses and industry is unsustainable and has implications for the environment, balance of trade and foreign policy. Australia is an important source of these fuels such as coal, gas and uranium but must show leadership in the development of alternative supplies.

PIA believes that there are viable alternatives to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and to replace them with renewable energy sources. Alternative energy supplies are available through a variety of sources including wind, geothermal, ocean tides and waves and solar energy.

There are a number of areas in which planning practice can promote the use of alternative supply and reduced reliance on fossil fuels.

In order to promote alternative energy sources and reduction of fossil fuels, PIA requires the following action:

1. The Commonwealth and State Governments should audit environment and planning legislation to identify opportunities and remove unreasonable restrictions that reduce the feasibility or operation of alternative energy sources.

2. Metropolitan and regional planning, including settlement patterns and transport plans should promote reduced reliance on fossil fuels.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Recent fluctuations in oil prices have demonstrated that this resource is finite at a time when demand for oil is at an all time high. Changes in global weather patterns as a result of climate change have also reiterated the need to explore alternative supplies.

Alternative energy supplies also need to be commercially attractive to industry to develop and also not cause adverse environmental impacts. This includes identifying and removing unnecessary environmental and planning barriers that may negatively impact on the development of these alternative supplies as well as the promotion of alternative supply.

PIA ACTION

PIA will support and lobby for planning initiatives of Government which seek to:

- Contribute to research and development efforts leading to improving the commercial feasibility of alternative and renewable energy production and sources for the purposes of electrical energy supply, transportation, housing materials and industrial production.
- Reduce Australia’s reliance on non-renewable and geopolitically uncertain fossil fuels.
- Provide legislative opportunities for the implementation of viable alternate energy production methods and
- Removes legislative barriers to the implementation of viable alternate energy production methods.