



EARTH DIALOGUES BRISBANE 2006 21 – 24 July 2006



Presented by Brisbane Festival 2006 and the Queensland Government in association with Brisbane City Council and Green Cross International

PLAN OF ACTION

On the closing day of Earth Dialogues Brisbane, the Government of Queensland and the Brisbane City Council announced a number of measures to further the achievement of the goals established at the Forum, including:

- Endorsing Green Cross International's Campaigns on **Solar Energy** and the **Right to Water**.
- Supporting the establishment of a **Green Cross Australia** headquarters in Brisbane.
- Incorporating the **Earth Charter** in Queensland Education's environmental curricula.
- Creating a **Queensland Youth Council** to enable young people to raise concerns and make proposals.

In all of these initiatives, and in their overall commitment to sustainable development, the Government of Queensland and the Brisbane City Council are united in a strong partnership.

The participants at Earth Dialogues Brisbane welcome this solidarity and these first steps, and call for the following additional actions.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF QUEENSLAND

The Government of Queensland should become a regional leader in the fight against climate change, biodiversity loss, poverty and human rights violations, and be on the forefront of research and innovation in sustainable solutions.

Much of the developing world is in tropical regions. Queensland should engage in win-win partnerships to share its knowledge and resources for the treatment of tropical diseases, the sustainable use of tropical land for food production, and protection against natural disasters.

Queensland should build on existing initiatives such as the Wild Rivers Act, and develop a long-term integrated water resources management plan as the foundation for the sustainable development of the state.

Queensland should protect its biodiversity in larger reserves to ensure its viability and ongoing evolution. Damaged ecosystems should be restored and repaired.

Queensland should seize its natural advantage and invest heavily in research, development and installation of solar power as a priority element in their establishment of a smart energy mix.

Queensland, as a coal exporting state, has a responsibility to further develop, apply and transfer clean fossil fuel technologies.

Queensland should support the development of frameworks based on the principles of Contraction & Convergence to guide market mechanisms to limit greenhouse gas emissions to a safe level, and set an example to the rest of Australia.

FOR THE CITY OF BRISBANE

The Brisbane City Council must take a holistic, people-centred approach to urban design and planning, aimed at making the city more pedestrian friendly, inclusive, equitable and respectful of biodiversity.

Specific actions to reduce the ecological footprint of Brisbane should include:

- Encouraging urban agriculture to reduce food miles.
- Establishing zero-waste targets.
- Reducing dependence on individual motorised transport, and improving collective transport options.
- Working progressively, and setting clear targets, towards becoming carbon neutral.

The city's water consumption must be drastically reduced using a combination of strategies: supply and demand management; recycling and re-use; water harvesting; elimination of wasteful consumption; and more sustainable pricing mechanisms.

Brisbane City Council is called on to integrate sustainability principles into existing and future development plans.

FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

It is the duty of every individual to get informed, take action and demand change!

People should accept their responsibilities as members of an interdependent global community and take steps towards more sustainable behaviour and consumption in their homes, places of work, schools and communities.

People must become engaged in political processes in order to elevate sustainable development and ecological justice onto political agendas. Individuals are encouraged to join political parties, NGOs and movements, and write to their MPs and local councils,

and participate actively to ensure that promises are kept and the community is involved in decisions.

People should demand more responsible and extensive coverage of sustainable development issues in the media, to reflect their importance to peoples' lives and the future of the country.

People should demand that their government respect the rights, needs and identities of indigenous people.

Recognizing climate change as a severe and urgent threat to human lives and the environment, all citizens should join us in putting pressure on the Federal Government of Australia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

Participants thank the State of Queensland, City of Brisbane, Brisbane Festival 2006, Green Cross International and all partners for the organisation of this important event, and urge their involvement in promoting the dissemination and implementation of this Plan of Action, to which we are all fully committed. We also support the Queensland Student Blueprint presented to the Premier at the close of the Earth Dialogues and encourage the Government of Queensland to integrate the proposals of these committed young people into their plans.

Future Earth Dialogues forums are encouraged due to their important role in engaging citizens from all sectors in the promotion of sustainable development and peace, and their crucial ability to bridge the divide between the sometimes opposing positions of other global forums. The establishment of Green Cross Australia and convening of future Earth Dialogues forums in Brisbane will be important for monitoring progress towards meeting the goals of this Plan of Action.