

Professor Peter Newman

Peter Newman is the Professor of Sustainability at Curtin University and the Director of the Curtin University Sustainability Policy Institute. He has recently been appointed as Chief Writer – Transport for the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, (IPCC). He is on the Board of Infrastructure Australia that is funding infrastructure for the long term sustainability of Australian cities. He has recently returned from a North American tour promoting his two new books ‘Resilient Cities: Responding to Peak Oil and Climate Change’ and ‘Green Urbanism Down Under’, both written with Tim Beatley.

In 2001-3 Peter directed the production of WA’s Sustainability Strategy in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. It was the first state sustainability strategy in the world. In 2004-5 he was a Sustainability Commissioner in Sydney advising the government on planning issues. In 2006/7 he was a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Virginia Charlottesville where he wrote his new books.

In Perth, Peter is best known for his work in saving, reviving and extending the city’s rail system. Peter invented the term ‘automobile dependence’ to describe how we have created cities where we have to drive everywhere. For 30 years since he attended Stanford University during the first oil crisis he has been warning cities about preparing for peak oil. Peter’s book with Jeff Kenworthy ‘Sustainability and Cities: Overcoming Automobile Dependence’ was launched in the White House in 1999. Peter has advised American Presidents and influenced paradigm shifts in regards to urban transport planning in North American cities. He was a Councillor in the City of Fremantle from 1976-80 where he still lives.