

# Study Guide for the Australian Collaboration Fact and Issue Sheet

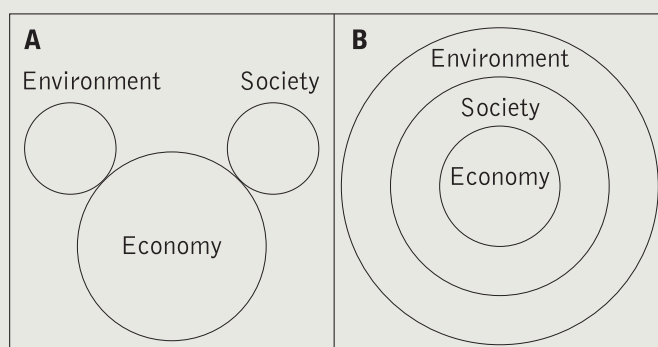
## SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

### FOR REVIEW

1. Why is Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*, so important?
2. What was the name of the report that first gave prominence to the term "sustainable development"?
3. What was the official name of the Brundtland Commission?
4. What was the title of its report and when was it published?
5. Draw a timeline from 1960 to 2020, and mark on it the year and title of the three reports from Questions 1-4.
6. How did the Brundtland Commission define the term "sustainable development"?
7. How is the definition of "sustainable development" in the Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development different from the Brundtland definition?
8. Add the publication of the Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development to your timeline.
9. Match one of the objectives of the Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development to each of the following words or phrases: (i) Social justice, (ii) Conservation, and (iii) Futures-minded development.
10. i) What does Ian Lowe include in his definition of sustainable development that is not stated in either the Brundtland definition or the definition in the Australian National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development?  
ii) Do you agree with this addition? Why?

### FOR DISCUSSION

11. What are the differences between the views of sustainable development in the following diagrams?



12. Which of the two diagrams best illustrates the view of sustainable development in the scientific arguments underpinning the Natural Step approach to sustainable development? Why?
13. What is the difference between the meanings of "sustainable development" and "sustainability"? Does such a difference matter? Why?

**14.** How are the sections near the end of the fact sheet called “Principles” and “Actions” related to each other?

**15.** The “Action” section lists five types of action for achieving sustainable development.:

- A. National policy
- B. Committed leadership
- C. Economic change
- D. Changed behaviour by individuals and families
- E. Sustainability education.

Rank these types of action from “1” to “5” to show how important you think each one is (“1” = most important). Give reasons for your rank order.

### FOR RESEARCH

**16.** Form into groups of four students. Each person is to select one of the following types of organisations to research:

- A. A State/Territory government
- B. A local government
- C. A private company
- D. An environmental organization

(i) Use the Internet to find out how the organisation defines sustainable development.

(ii) Share the definition with other members of your group.

(iii) Write the definitions in the left hand column of the following diagram.

Definitions	Dimensions		
	Social	Economic	Ecological
1.			
2.			
3			
4.			

(iv) Give each definition a score from 1-3 to show how much emphasis you think each one places on the four different dimensions of sustainable development, where:

1 = Very strong emphasis

2 = Medium emphasis

3 = Weak or no emphasis

(v) Which definition does your group think is the best? Why?