

Beyond the triple-bottom line: measuring and reporting on sustainability

Lotta Lilja & Kim Lazenby

Lotta Lilja

lotta.lilja@audit.vic.gov.au

Kim Lazenby

kim.lazenby@audit.vic.gov.au

Victorian Auditor General's Office

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ABSTRACT

Sustainability is not an easy concept. It is multi-faceted and the relationship between its components is as important as the components themselves. The definition of sustainability also changes in tune with community values. However, there is great potential in the concept - if applied in good faith, it can increase the effectiveness of government organisations, both now, and in the long term.

The Victorian Auditor-General's office has researched the concept of sustainability, particularly the area of measuring and reporting. This presentation will acquaint participants with the sustainability concept and discuss some of its inherent tensions. We will also outline some examples and case studies of holistic approaches to measuring and reporting on sustainability initiatives.

The research conducted by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office resulted in an occasional paper, Beyond the Triple Bottom Line: Measuring and Reporting on Sustainability.

http://www.audit.vic.gov.au/op01_sustainability.pdf