

# **Reflections of Local Government Environmental Planning**

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# Webinar etiquette



Deep Dive – get to the point

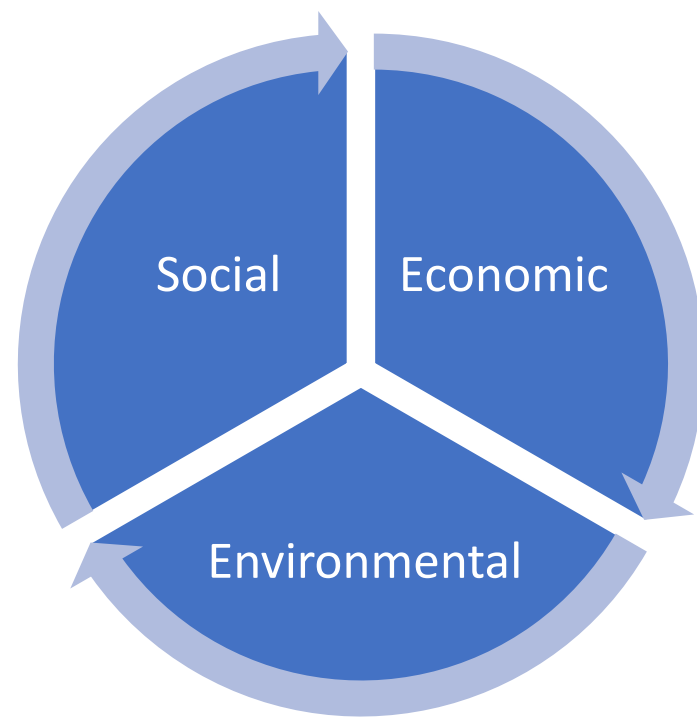


Make the point



Discuss the point

**Starting  
Point :  
3 legs of  
Sustainable  
Development**



**Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs**

# What's the reality in SA ?

- Environmental aspects dominate at expense of economic and social
- Conservation & Preservation replaces environmental management
- Environmental issues become sacrosanct and “no development” is the rallying cry
- Spatial Planners are not leading or not given the space to lead
- Even when the “environment” dominates, it is about the
  - “biophysical : fauna, flora, biodiversity, wetlands & floodplains”, NOT
  - “human environmental” : health, waste, sanitation, heritage, housing & air pollution
- Dangerous slope between social & economic on one side vs environmental i.e. class & race
- One legacy that is still fresh are “buffers” – a land use tool from apartheid spatial planning.
- Reference to environmental buffers must be critically examined as a tool in post-apartheid spatial planning

# Why is this prevalent, then ?

- Lack of the deep understanding of SD – all round, from government policy makers to environmental practitioners, environmental NGO's and environmental officials
- There is a bias within those in the sector :
  - business promote the economic,
  - environmentalists promote the environment
  - and nobody is championing the social issues (perhaps a few NGO's)
- So - what are the social issues – poverty, informal settlements, homeless, crime and grime.
- So, this should be government, but they are always shouted down by business and environmentalists, so they cave in – we have a neo-liberal government that favours business !!

# What do we do about it ?

- Put People first – it's the right thing to do !!
- Legal imperative : SA is a development state
- Implications of being a development state – social takes preference if a choice must be made
- Planners should be leading spatial planning and others provide input into planning.
- Why ? Land Use Planners plan on land
- Impacts on land goes either up (AIR) or down (OCEAN)
- If Planners are not trained on environmental impacts of land use, then the curriculum must be reviewed

**THANK  
YOU**

