

# 15 SEPTEMBER 1999

| SUBJECT  | MARK              | COMMENTS  | BACKGROUND  |
|--|-------------------|---|---|
| <b>OLYMPIC PLAYERS</b>   |                   |   |   |
| IOC  | <b>Incomplete</b> | <i>Attendance problems</i>                                | Absent too often to be graded. The IOC was hounded by bribery allegations and other difficulties and has not been present this year to influence Sydney's and other cities' environmental performance.  |
| Minister for the Olympics  | <b>D</b>          | <i>Absent</i>   | Should have been more involved in environmental imperatives.  |
| SOCOG  | <b>B</b>          | <i>Tries hard but yet to be tested</i>                    | Open to ideas and communication, SOCOG has tried hard to ensure its environmental agenda is followed through. Will need to be careful that time and money pressures in the run up to the Games do not weaken its environmental commitment. Could be more assertive.   |
| OCA  | <b>C</b>          | <i>Reluctant participant</i>                              | The OCA can be non-communicative, difficult and, at times, obstructive to environmental initiatives. Shows improvement in its recent decision to remediate 400 tonnes of dioxin waste with progressive new treatment methods (see below)  |
| <b>OLYMPIC SPONSORS</b>  |                   |   |   |
| Catering and sponsors during Games   | <b>?</b>          | <i>Too soon to tell</i>                                   | Will Olympic caterers and sponsors such as Coke and Streets use environmentally safe refrigeration or ignore the Guidelines?  |
| Overall Players Score  | <b>B-</b>         | <i>Leadership needed</i>                                  | Commitment to Green Games   |
| <b>KEY ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS</b>   |                   |   |   |
| Environmental Guidelines   | <b>A</b>          | <i>Shows real commitment</i>                              | Some of the world's most progressive environmental commitments ever made across all key areas of concern: global warming, ozone layer and biodiversity protection, avoiding toxic materials, waste, water and energy.   |
| <b>RENEWABLE ENERGY</b>  |                   |   |   |
| Solar energy in the Olympic Village  | <b>A+</b>         | <i>Excellent work</i>                                     | World's largest solar suburb with both solar hot water and grid-connected electricity systems.  |
| Energy efficiency and environmental design in Athletes' Village and Olympic venues   | <b>A+</b>         | <i>Did your homework</i>                                  | Integrated and far-thinking environmental approach throughout Athletes' Village and several other venues.   |
| Solar panels on Olympic venues (the SuperDome, Regatta Centre and Olympic Stadium)   | <b>B+</b>         | <i>Shows initiative</i>                                   | Solar collectors on many key Olympic venues producing clean, renewable energy. Additional space could have been used.   |
| Green Power schemes<br>Energy Australia in Sydney offers three Green power purchasing schemes: 'Pure Energy', the best, most expensive option for new renewable sources, a 'Renewable' scheme, second best and moderately priced and a 'Green Power' scheme, cheapest and least effective. This scheme will lose its green power accreditation next year | <b>B</b>          | <i>Needs a stronger unified commitment by all players</i> | SOCOG, Stadium Australia and the SuperDome have all committed to using 10% power from the 'Pure Energy' scheme and 90% from the 'Renewable' scheme. They are to be commended. The OCA and the Olympic Hotel, however, take 100% of their power from the 'Green Power' scheme, the least expensive and least effective option. Will they up their commitment when this scheme loses its accreditation next year and follow the leadership of SOCOG, Stadium Australia and the SuperDome? |
| Millennium Park solar system   | <b>A</b>          | <i>Creative thinking</i>                                  | An 805-panel solar electrical system will be installed on a former ammunition bunker, now part of the Millennium parkland next to the Olympic site. Will it be completed in time?   |
| Solar Media Village  | <b>C</b>          | <i>Reluctant effort</i>                                   | Solar hot water systems will be installed on the permanent houses at the Media Village allowing the media to see environmental solutions at work. Sadly, no solar electric systems will be used. Pales in comparison with the Athletes' Village.  |
| Solar Thermal Power Station  | <b>F</b>          | <i>Gave up too easily</i>                                 | Dropped plans to include cutting-edge solar power technology. Now happening elsewhere in Australia.   |

| SUBJECT   | MARK | COMMENTS                          | BACKGROUND  |
|---|------|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>TOXIC REMEDIATION</b>  |      |                                   |   |
| Treatment of highly toxic dioxin waste found on the Olympic site by OCA | A    | <i>World-class performance</i>    | Cutting-edge remediation technology, rather than incineration, will be used to break down 400 tonnes of waste found on the Olympic site to non-toxic elements. Hard lessons learned in the area of community consultation.  |
| Clean up of Olympic site by OCA   | B-   | <i>Shows effort</i>               | Safety checks have shown the Olympic site meets safety levels and shows little threat from toxic waste previously on site. Some waste still buried on site rather than treated. There is serious concern over who will manage this waste after the Olympics when the OCA is no longer there.  |
| Clean up of old ICI (now Orica) factory at Rhodes Peninsula             | F    | <i>No follow through</i>          | ICI has left thousands of tons of toxic industrial waste adjacent to the Olympic site. Will the company clean up its toxic legacy?  |
| Clean up of Homebush Bay and old Union Carbide site by NSW Government   | F?   | <i>Missed assignment deadline</i> | Tests show high levels of dioxins, furans and other pollutants making it one of the worst dioxin spots in the world. Fishing in the Bay is illegal. Despite a strong commitment to clean up the area, this will not take place before Games. Will the NSW Government clean up plans be cemented before the Games and carried out after? |
| <b>PVC</b>  |      |                                   |   |
| Elimination or reduction of PVC throughout Olympic venues               | B    | <i>Shows initiative</i>           | PVC eliminated or reduced in plumbing, piping, cabling, seating and interior detail throughout many Olympic venues.   |
| Elimination or reduction of PVC in Athletes' Village                    | A-   | <i>Very good try</i>              | Up to 80 percent PVC reduction in cabling and building materials.   |
| <b>WASTE</b>  |      |                                   |   |
| Games-time waste and recycling plan                                     | ?    | <i>High hopes</i>                 | Progressive plan to exclude all non-recyclable and non-reusable material from the Olympic site during Games. Early warning signs suggest that SOCOG may not have backbone for enforcement.  |
| Lidcombe Liquid Waste facility  | F    | <i>Report to the principal</i>    | Located between the SuperDome and the Athletes' Village, Lidcombe was recently fined for serious odour violations. Will this really be operating during the Games?  |
| Sewage treatment  | D    | <i>No initiative</i>              | Missed opportunity to introduce best practice sewage treatment systems. Like Sydney waste, Olympic waste ultimately ends up in the Pacific Ocean.   |
| <b>TRANSPORT</b>  |      |                                   |   |
| First car-free Olympics   | B+   | <i>Great idea</i>                 | Public transport will be the main method of transport to the Games, an Olympic first. But there will still be some car parking on site. And ferry use, originally planned for public transport, will only be available to Olympic VIPs.   |
| Train line expansion  | A    | <i>Excellent</i>                  | A\$94 million spent to expand rail lines to service the Olympics.   |
| Natural gas buses   | ?    | <i>Unknown</i>                    | Will they be used as part of the public transport fleet?  |
| Educational promotion to encourage public transport use                 | B+   | <i>So far so good</i>             | Public education about the benefits of taking public transport and high parking costs have successfully led to major public transport use during large test events.   |
| City transport during Games   | B-   | <i>Could do more</i>              | Traffic will be allowed through Sydney at all times during the Games but car-free zones will be in place and public street parking will be banned in the city. Public transport will run 24-hours a day.  |
| Promoting bicycle use   | C+   | <i>Try harder</i>                 | Although a network of bike paths will be included around the Olympic site, no safe lock-up facilities will be provided.   |

# ONE YEAR TO GO

| SUBJECT  | MARK | COMMENTS                                      | BACKGROUND   |
|--|------|---|--|
| <b>BIODIVERSITY</b>  |      |   |  |
| Protection for endangered Green and Golden Bell Frog                 | A-   | <i>Stick with it</i>                          | Although Olympic plans were changed to protect the frog's habitat, monitoring and commitment needs to continue during and after Games when the OCA is no longer there.   |
| Australian plantation timber and FSC timber use in Athletes' Village | B+   | <i>Good start</i>                             | Use of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) approved wood a first in Australia and plantation timber a good alternative to old growth timber. Limited supply of FSC timber available restricted use in Olympic venues.   |
| Dunc Gray Velodrome Bankstown  | F?   | <i>Hanging in the balance</i>                 | Criterion bike track slated to be located in important biodiversity area. Local residents oppose this plan. Not too late to relocate to a better site.   |
| Saving Newington remnant forest                                      | B+   | <i>Well done</i>                              | Tiny parcel of original forest nearly lost to development. Will protection be permanent?   |
| Recycled Timber use in Olympic venues                                | C    | <i>Mixed result</i>                           | Broke promise to use recycled timber on Regatta Centre but came through at the Clydesdale Pavilion and Olympic Rail Station.   |
| <b>REFRIGERATION AND COOLING</b>                                     |      |   |  |
| Air conditioning in Olympic venues                                   | F    | <i>Biggest failure</i>                        | Despite a clear Environmental Guideline commitment not to, ozone-depleting HCFCs and greenhouse gas HFCs will be used for air conditioning in all Olympic venues that require it.  |
| Refrigeration in Olympic venues                                      | D    | <i>Token effort to mask failure elsewhere</i> | Although some environmentally safe refrigerators will be used at the SuperDome and in some of the Olympic hotel rooms, there is no overall commitment to meeting the Guidelines on this issue.   |
| Temporary venues   | ?    | <i>Too soon to say</i>                        | Will HCFCs or HFCs be used in temporary venues, such as the Media Centre?  |
| <b>WATER</b>   |      |   |  |
| Olympic water recycling system                                       | A-   | <i>Leading the way</i>                        | 50% of the water used at the Olympic site will come from reclaimed rainwater. Still some concern about how the system might impact frog habitat.   |
| Dual water system in the Athletes' Village                           | B    | <i>Thinking ahead</i>                         | Dual water system to allow recycled water use for toilets and garden in Athletes' Village housing but not until after the Games.   |
| Aquatic Centre swimming pools  | B    | <i>Just short of perfect</i>                  | Uses innovative ozone treatment system with only minimal chemical chlorine use.  |
| <b>OTHER</b>   |      |   |  |
| Olympic Hotel  | B-   | <i>Ahead of the pack</i>                      | One of the largest hotels to include environmental advances such as the largest solar-water heating system in Australia, 37% reduction in energy needs, a recycled water system and reduced PVC use. Hydrocarbon refrigerators will be used in the 168 Novotel Hotel rooms. Unfortunately, HFCs will be used in hotel air conditioning system.       |
| Bondi Beach volleyball stadium                                       | C-   | <i>Failure to listen</i>                      | Despite extensive community protest over the expected nine months of construction on Sydney's most popular beach and an expected cost of A\$75 million, organisers refuse to relocate event.   |
| <b>SPECIAL MENTION</b>   |      |   |  |
| Modular housing in the Athletes' Village                             | A    | <i>Above and beyond assignment</i>            | Usually the least environmental of all housing, temporary housing in the Athletes' Village is an environmental exception with PVC-free piping, plantation timber in exterior and decking and integrated environmental design.  |
| Media Village  | D    | <i>Better effort expected</i>                 | Poor effort compared with the Athletes' Village modular housing. OCA has let the side down and can expect to hear about it from International media during Games.  |
| Worm farms   | B+   | <i>Creative initiative</i>                    | SOCOG and Olympic sponsor Westpac have established worm farms to compost office food waste. Will other sponsor companies take up the challenge?  |
| <b>OVERALL GRADE</b>   | B-   | <i>Shows great promise, keep trying</i>       | When the world's attention turns to Sydney in September 2000, some amazing environmental successes will be on show. However, a few opportunities have been missed. If Sydney follows through with its commitment to clean up the dioxin waste in and around Homebush Bay, Sydney will deserve an impressive B+ for its Olympic environmental legacy. |

# WORLD'S FIRST GREEN GAMES?

**W**ill Sydney's Olympic Games really be the first Green Games? Greenpeace believes they should be. Lillehammer, Atlanta, Nagano and other Olympic cities made efforts to include environmental protection in some of their venues and in some issue areas. Lillehammer's efforts in particular, were significant. However, no other Olympic host city has attempted to incorporate environmental protection into all stages of the planning and development of its Olympic site in the way that Sydney has. The city has taken a risk unlike any other Olympic host city — **to make its environmental commitments public in the form of official Environmental Guidelines prior to the construction of its Olympic site.** These Guidelines allow organisations such as Greenpeace, companies tendering for Olympic contracts, local communities and the general public to know exactly what these commitments are up front. Sydney will be held accountable to these Guidelines.

Also, since development of the Olympic site began in 1993, state and federal governments provided funding to a dedicated watchdog organisation, Green Games Watch 2000, to monitor Sydney's adherence to the Environmental Guidelines. A major challenge for the future is to ensure that Athens, Salt Lake City and other Olympic hosts not only match Sydney's efforts but continue to surpass it.

## ■ Successes 1998/99

This year, a number of **positive new initiatives** have been announced, some of which Greenpeace has campaigned to achieve over the last seven years.

Most importantly, Greenpeace joined the Olympic Coordination Authority (OCA) in August to announce that **advanced remediation technology will be used to clean up 400 tonnes of dioxin waste found on the Olympic site.** The waste, believed to have come from the old Union Carbide factory which operated on Rhodes Peninsula across Homebush Bay, has been a major concern since Homebush was selected as the site of Sydney's Games. The remediation system chosen by the OCA and implemented by Australian Defence Industries (ADI) does not use incineration but breaks down chemical waste to its constituent parts. If operated to a high standard, Greenpeace believes this kind of technology is much better for the environment than incineration or monitorable storage. The 400 tonnes of waste will be treated in a three-stage process on site and will be complete well

before the Olympic Games in September 2000.

A commitment to additional solar power systems has also been made this year with support from Greenpeace. In June, the New South Wales (NSW) Government announced that **solar hot water systems will be installed on all permanent houses at the Olympic Media Village,** a key part of ensuring that Sydney's environmental efforts are noticed by the 5,000 media who cover the Games. Also, **an 805-panel solar electric system is to be installed on a former ammunitions bunker, now part of the Millennium Parkland next to the Olympic site.**

Long part of the original Green Olympic plan, **an extensive water reclamation and management scheme (WRAMS) was launched by the OCA in April 1999.** The system will provide up to 50 per cent of the water needed for Olympic site venues from treated storm and sewage water, primarily for toilet use and irrigation. If the A\$13.8 million WRAMS system is successful, it is hoped that similar recycled water plans will be encouraged in and around Australia.

Greenpeace supported **the launch of the Integrated Waste Management Strategy by the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) in December 1998,** as a new approach to waste systems at large-scale public events. The Strategy limits materials allowed onto the Olympic site during the Games to those that can be recycled, reused or composted. Polystyrene, plastic foodware and shrink and cling wrap are among the materials banned on site. This means caterers, suppliers and sponsors will need to adapt the materials they use on site to comply with pre-arranged recycling and composting plans. Greenpeace expressed some concern at the time of the launch that, despite a clear mention in the Environmental Guidelines, the toxic plastic PVC was not singled out to be avoided. We believe the real challenge to this plan will be to ensure that all companies comply, despite time and money pressures as the Games approach. Enforcement will be difficult.

## ■ Failures 1998/99

Unfortunately, in the last year we have also seen some **clear failures** to live up to Sydney's original Environmental Guidelines.

Greenpeace believes that the biggest missed environmental opportunity this year has been **the failure of Olympic organisers to avoid ozone-destructive chemicals CFCs and HCFCs and greenhouse gas HFC in Olympic venues as clearly stated in the Environmental Guidelines.**

In late 1998 and early 1999, Greenpeace met with Olympic organisers and companies to try to prevent the use of these environmentally destructive chemicals. A Freedom of Information request filed by Greenpeace in July 1999 found that not a single Olympic venue met the Guidelines and that all air conditioning systems will use ozone-depleting and/or potent greenhouse gas chemicals.

Greenpeace filed an injunction in the Federal Court of Australia in December 1998 to stop the OCA from making what we believe to be false claims that its air conditioning system in the SuperDome is the best environmental option. The OCA and its environmental consultant had stated that "in order to avoid the use of ozone depleting substances and greenhouse gas emissions at the [SuperDome] ... 'green friendly' products would be purchased". As their system of choice uses both ozone-depleting HCFCs and potent greenhouse gas HFCs, this was a clear misrepresentation of the facts. After eight months of delay tactics by the OCA and mounting legal fees, Greenpeace settled the case out of court because we believed the issue was never likely to be heard on its true merits.

Greenpeace believes that the use of natural cooling chemicals in one or more of Sydney's Olympic venues would have provided a great showcase for this technology nationally and given the building industry a well-needed push away from environmentally destructive air conditioning chemicals.

While alternative technology is being used in a growing number of large venues internationally, use in Australia lags well behind. As 99.5% of HCFCs will be phased out of use in developed countries by the United Nation's Montreal Protocol by 2020, Greenpeace believes Australia has missed an opportunity to use the Green Games to catch its industry up in the move toward clean alternatives such as ammonia and hydrocarbons. In the country with the highest skin cancer rate in the world, Australia must face its contribution to the ozone hole, expected to be twice the size of Europe this year. Unfortunately, it will not do so as part of its Green Games effort.

**The clean up of thousands of tonnes of dioxin and other toxic waste left by Union Carbide on land and in the muds of Homebush Bay will not be cleaned up in time for the Games. While the New South Wales Government has now made a solid commitment to the clean up it will be some time before it will be initiated.** ▶

In 1997, Greenpeace discovered 69 barrels of highly toxic material left abandoned on the Rhodes Peninsula, adjacent to the Olympic site. We also found fish in Homebush Bay with deformities and high levels of dioxin in their tissue. At the time, the Government of NSW promised A\$21 million to clean up the area, including the sediment in Homebush Bay where chemical companies had dumped effluent for years. The 69 barrels of dioxin waste that Greenpeace found and secured remain as we left them, locked in two containers marked "DANGER, DIOXIN WASTE" on the site.

It is now too late for a full cleanup before the Games. The onus is on the NSW Government to ensure that clean up plans are cemented before the Games and carried out immediately after. If done, Greenpeace believes this would be the most important legacy of the Green Games and would increase Sydney's overall environmental score from a B- to a B+.

Finally, the ICI (now Orica) chemical factory on the Rhodes Peninsula and across from the Olympic site has only recently been vacated by the company. **Greenpeace has lobbied and carried out protest actions calling for ICI to pay its fair share to ensure that the toxic waste on land and in the Bay is effectively cleaned up but as yet, no set figure has been agreed.** The NSW Government has a responsibility to ensure that tax payers do not end up paying for this clean up.

## ■ Sponsors Environmental Commitments

In the last year, **Greenpeace has met with a number of Olympic sponsors to explore how they might use the opportunity of the Green Games to showcase their environmental initiatives** or to learn from the Environment Guidelines. Some companies have made impressive environmental commitments as part of a sustainable approach to doing business. Others, it is clear, rely entirely on state and/or federal environmental regulations to determine their environmental requirements and had taken no independent initiatives. To date, only a few sponsors have made commitments of their own to launch environmental initiatives directly linked to their Olympic sponsorship. More needs to be done if Sydney is claim a successful Green Games.

Three environmental initiatives have and/or will impact on sponsors. These **include the waste plan** mentioned above, which will restrict the kinds of non-recyclable material sponsors can use or bring in to the Olympic site. The launch this year of the **Buy Recycled Business**

**Alliance**, founded by five Olympic sponsor companies, could strongly impact on the move to purchase recycled material in Australia. Also the launch in the last few years of **Olympic Landcare**, which seeks to plant up to four million trees across Australia by the time of the Games, has been heavily supported by a number of Olympic sponsor companies.

Greenpeace will continue to talk with Olympic sponsors to find ways to use the environmental profile of Sydney's Games to launch specific environmental initiatives.

## ■ Olympic Structural Difficulties

Greenpeace believes one of the main lessons learned through Sydney's Games is that **the division of Olympic organisers into two groups — the builders coordinated by OCA and the show managers under SOCOG — has made cooperation between the two often difficult.** In addition there should have been higher level involvement of the directors of SOCOG and the OCA as well as the Olympic Minister in environmental decision making.

While **SOCOG** has been approachable and open to discussion about environmental concerns and its environmental team is to be commended, it has been unwilling to intervene or take responsibility for shortfalls in meeting the Guidelines. The **OCA** has often been difficult to communicate with, unwilling to provide information requested by watchdog groups and obstructionist in exploring some environmental solutions. These problems could have been addressed by the **Minister for the Olympics** who oversees both SOCOG and the OCA. However, the Minister's office offered little pro-active involvement in finding solutions that could not be found within one or the other organisation. This has been a source of frustration and disappointment for environmental groups and has contributed to a number of the negatives on the Greenpeace report card.

## ■ IOC

Sadly, the IOC was too embroiled in its own problems and scandals over the past year to provide an outside voice of encouragement or of condemnation when Sydney has fallen short of its original environmental goals. Although the IOC employs an excellent environmental consultant and has monitored Sydney's progress closely, it has been unwilling to intervene in environmental concerns. Greenpeace believes the IOC should play a more active and vital role in encouraging Olympic host cities to truly benefit

from the Olympic legacy through environmental improvements. To do this is must take its involvement and enforcement on the issue more seriously.

## ■ Watchdog Groups

Greenpeace and Green Games Watch 2000 are the two most prominent environmental groups in monitoring the progress of Sydney's environmental commitment. A number of community groups from around Homebush Bay also play a vital role and have fought for extensive community consultation. All of us have, at times, found it difficult to get access to important information and met with resistance over our involvement and criticisms when the Environmental Guidelines are not met.

## ■ Conclusion

With one year to go, Sydney's Olympic Games venues and infrastructure are almost complete. Since the city won the bid in 1993, organisers have seen their early plans realised. The final product has many environmental successes for which Sydney can be proud. Sadly, there are some missed opportunities which weaken the environmental legacy of the Olympics.

Greenpeace's focus now moves to the following areas:

- looking for ways to move the environmental successes beyond the Olympic site and into mainstream use in Australia and worldwide.
- the environmental impact of the Games themselves,
- monitoring the last venues and temporary venues for Environmental Guideline compliance,
- exploring the contributions Olympic sponsors can make to Sydney's environmental legacy.

Greenpeace is learning a great deal from its involvement in Sydney's Olympic Games. We are fighting for practical environmental solutions to real world environmental problems and facing all the real world obstacles. Our goal now is to ensure the lessons learned through this great opportunity are not lost at the end of the Games. As the new millennium approaches, finding and integrating environmental solutions must be looked at as an opportunity, not a burden. We hope that in September 2000, this is what Sydney can show the world, which must then take up the baton of environmental solutions and run with it.

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# GREENPEACE

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## GREENPEACE OLYMPICS REPORT CARD

### ONE YEAR TO GO

15 September, 1999. A report card on Sydney's environmental performance one year from the 2000 Summer Olympic Games

In 1993, fresh from winning the bid for the 2000 Olympic Games, Sydney committed to specific Environmental Guidelines for the development of its Olympic site as part of its official Olympics legislation. Greenpeace, the environmental group who originally conceived of the Green Olympic Games, had helped draft these Guidelines with other environmental groups. The city's environmental approach had been highly praised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and was thought to be one of the main reasons for Sydney winning the bid to host the first Olympic Games of the new millennium.

With one year to go before Sydney hosts the Summer Olympics in September 2000, Greenpeace has carried out a second assessment of the city's environmental performance compared with its original Environmental Guidelines. Overall, Greenpeace gives Sydney's environmental efforts a rating of B-, or seven out of ten, with some remarkable successes and a few disappointing failures so far.