

STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW

Party of Australia

Dear Citizen. My name is **Robert (Bob) Couch**. I intend to nominate as a candidate for the SA election in March 2018.

I class myself as a “green conservative”.

Why, is that, you may ask. It is because, whilst I have a strong belief that we must do much more to preserve our environment (and in that respect, and that respect only, I agree with the Greens Party) , I have otherwise what most would describe as conservative views. For example, I am very supportive of business, a strong believer in balancing the budget, and believe that there needs to be a greater emphasis on citizens responsibilities, not just citizens rights.



For some years, I have been active in promoting zero population growth (zpg). In 2009 I co founded the Stop Population Growth Now Party (SPGN) in order to provide zpg supporters with a party to vote for. SPGN currently has in excess of 300 members and is registered as an official political party in SA.

It can be clearly shown that South Australia (indeed Australia and the whole world) does not need more people (did you know 227,000 people are added to the Earth’s population every DAY?). More people just means less jobs to go around, more competition for housing stock leading to higher prices, worsening traffic congestion, more pressure on our water supplies and fisheries, longer hospital waiting lists, more good food growing land built over for a never ending spread of housing and a host of other problems.

Yet the SA Labour Government(supported by Liberals and Xenophon) persists with a policy to increase SA’s population by 545,000 over the next 30 years (presently 1.7 million).

There are those who claim that these problems can be addressed by building more infrastructure e.g. roads, schools, hospitals, power supplies, water storages, etc. Firstly, not all of the problems can be addressed by more expenditure (for example, restoring our already seriously depleted fisheries). Secondly, it can shown that it costs at least \$100,000 per person to provide a satisfactory standard of infrastructure. So over the next 30 years, the SA Government would need to find \$54 BILLION to fund the infrastructure needed by those extra 545,000 people. Given that SA is already in a desperate financial position (necessitating selling off our assets e.g. forests, lands titles office, motor accident commission, just to pay our bills) it is completely unrealistic to expect this money can be found.

It is commonly suggested that we need more people to address an aging population. The Productivity Commission has rejected this view on 4 separate occasions. Even if thousands of extra young people were born or allowed to migrate to this country, the fact is that they too age, and we end up with a bigger problem. And there are other countries whose population is reducing without serious effects e.g. Japan .

Some of my policies on matters other than population

1. I support making South Australia sustainable in all respects for the long term , including

environmentally and financially . For example, I support the move to renewable energy in SA. The use of coal for power generation needs to be phased out, **but at a sensible, and affordable, pace**. We need a future energy plan.

2. I support the competitive free market system with Govt intervention only to curb excesses, guard against plunder by multi national corporations, ensure fair play, and to protect the national interest. I believe that the best interests of all are served by a respectful partnership between government, business, unions and the citizenry.
Small business in particular, needs to be nurtured and encouraged . Payroll tax is a direct disincentive to more employment, and should be abolished. Business is burdened with too many rules and regulations that have no real purpose. Addressing these and other issues would help reduce the high levels of unemployment in SA. Jobs must be available to all who want them. In recent years there has been tendency for governments to support free international trade, often at the expense of local industry. This needs to stop.
 3. I support balanced budgets and minimal Government borrowing. Present federal and state governments have been borrowing excessively in recent times. State debt is approx. \$14 billion .We need to live within our means.
 4. Government needs to give more priority to reducing the cost of living. The Emergency Services Levy should be abolished completely, not just reduced. This can be paid for by reducing unnecessary expenditure e.g. it is not necessary to take out expensive newspaper advertising promoting the new hospital and the proposed solar energy plant at Port Augusta. Council rates should be capped.
 5. Housing is becoming unaffordable, especially for young couples starting out. Cutting present migration into Australia from 190,000 per annum to a few thousand will answer this problem
 6. The use of illegal drugs is rife, and putting great stresses on police, hospital, and ambulance personnel. Penalties for peddling illegal drugs need to triple.
 7. The standards achieved in SA schools leave a lot to be desired. I support a “back to basics” approach in schools, and the re introduction of school inspectors. My tertiary education was free. It should be so again.
 8. I support the availability of voluntary euthanasia.
 9. If elected, I will donate any pay rises awarded to Parliamentarians during my term of office to sporting clubs or other worthy causes.
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My qualifications and experience

Academic qualifications:- Associateship (Accounting) - SA Institute of Technology

Employment experience:-

1960 to1994

SA Public Service - Accounting and computing related positions up to senior level (Last position - IT Manager, Dept of Public and Consumer Affairs).

1994 to now

Many occupations, including farming, major building construction, heavy transport and manufacturing (much of this as an employee of a labour hire company).

Community service:-

A lifetime of volunteer service on committees for schools, sporting clubs, community associations, and the like (too many to list).

Interests:-
dancing.

The future of my grandchildren, sailing, 50's era rock and roll

Resides:-

Marino, SA. I can be contacted via email at

convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com or phone 0488 071 799.

Citizens of SA, Stop Population Growth Now plans to offer candidates at the SA election in March 2018.

If you would like to support us, you can join our party (Associate Membership is free) and/ or

donate to our cause.

You can **JOIN** our party via our website (www.stoppopulationgrowthnow.com/membership) OR by phoning 0488 071 799 and requesting a membership application form OR writing to us at Box 134 Brighton SA 5048. You can **DONATE** to our party by direct deposit to our Westpac bank account (BSB 035-045 Account 276115) or by cheque/ money order posted to Box 134, Brighton SA 5048. All contributions are tax deductible up to \$1500 per annum. Please supply your address if you need a receipt sent to you.

NOTE - All officers and helpers of SPGN are volunteers. No one gets paid. We have a FACEBOOK page.

Please consider.