

STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW

Party of Australia

A letter from **Bob Couch**, Candidate for the SA House of Assembly seat of Fisher

Dear Citizen

Are you concerned that jobs are becoming harder to get, housing is becoming less and less affordable, costs of water and electricity continue to rise, health care and hospitals are harder to access, traffic congestion gets ever worse, and backyards for children to play in are being rapidly replaced by smaller houses and high-rise apartments. Add to this loss of precious and productive agricultural land close to the city, loss of biodiversity across the state, and you are probably very worried that the future for our children does not look rosy.

What is common to all these worsening factors? It is unnecessary and vested interest sponsored **population growth**.

Commercial interests together with the political parties they generously support, peddle the myth that Australia must grow its population in order to improve the welfare of its people. This is a lie perpetuated to serve the narrow interests of the small number who will benefit from population growth. **The majority, probably including you, are made poorer.**

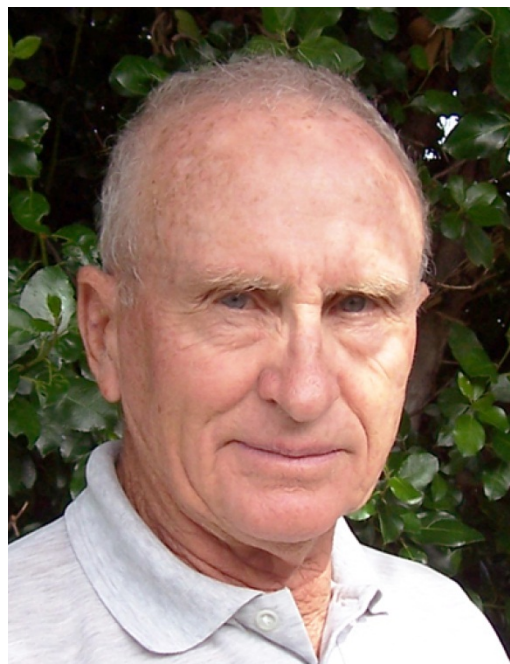
Neither a large nor a growing population is necessary to have a culturally or materially rich society. On the contrary population growth brings with it all the penalties mentioned in the first paragraph. Every additional person added to our state needs additional infrastructure: roads, hospitals, police, schools, water and electricity supply etc.

As long as governments and vested interests push population growth you will suffer the consequences of this growth. Infrastructure Australia has estimated that nationally we need to spend \$770 billion just to catch up with the infrastructure backlog we already have.

Yet in South Australia we have a Government and an Opposition that seek faster population growth.

The present Government has ridden roughshod over the wishes of the majority in order to serve the interests of property developers and other big business interests. It has usurped the role of local government and local communities in taking a large area of prime agricultural land in Mt Barker and putting it under concrete and bitumen. Whether this action was even legal is still questionable. In similar fashion it has ignored the wishes of citizens in Cheltenham, Woodville (St Clair), Gilberton, West Lakes, Prospect, Gawler, Seaford, Unley, Marion, Victor Harbour, Adelaide City, Burnside, Brighton and elsewhere. The rights and wishes of locals are being treated with absolute contempt. Unwanted high rise, and associated congestion, is being thrust down present residents' throats. **Will your town or suburb be next?**

It is estimated that each additional person requires an additional infrastructure cost of at least \$100,000. The Weatherill Government plans to increase the population of SA to 2,000,000 by 2027 (presently 1,670,000), an increase of about 330,000. That will cost, at the very least, \$33 billion in addition to the costs of maintaining existing infrastructure – over \$2.5 billion every year for 13 years just to accommodate population increase. The Liberals support the Labour plan, and the Greens prevaricate about the matter.



What can YOU do about this?

You can give your vote to the Stop Population Growth Now Party (SPGN), which, as its name implies, will aim to stop population growth. The majority of population growth comes from immigration, which SPGN would make major cuts to, while still admitting a sensible and fair number of genuine refugees on a non-discriminatory basis (no more than 16,000 per annum). SPGN would insist that requirements for skilled labour be satisfied by training young (and older) Australians, rather than importing cheap labour from overseas, and by eliminating rorts in the education sector whereby students come to study in Australia mainly to obtain permanent residency. Removal of incentives to have large families would also make a contribution.

Bob Couch

Qualifications:-

Associateship (Accounting) - SA Institute of Technology

Career:- 1960 - 1994

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 (mostly 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:-

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

Resides:-

Marino, SA. I can be contacted via email at convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com or phone 0488 071 799.

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, much more emphasis should be placed on use of renewable energy in SA. The use of coal for power generation needs to be phased out. 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. For example, payroll tax is a direct disincentive to more employment, and should be abolished. This would be a step towards reducing the high levels of unemployment in SA.
3. I support balanced budgets and minimal Government borrowing. Present federal and state governments have been borrowing excessively in recent times. 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. A small example; does the police force really need horses in this day and age? Council rates are out of control, and should be capped at CPI. Each new person who arrives in SA costs upward of \$100,000 for the infrastructure (roads, schools, police, hospital beds, etc) needed to properly support them. The population of SA increased by 50,000 in the last 3 years. That is a total of \$5 billion dollars. As the Government is not spending this money, as it does not have it, and never will, the result is more pressure on existing facilities.
5. Housing is becoming unaffordable, especially for young couples starting out. Only Australian citizens should be able to purchase Australian residential property, and the activities of investors need to be moderated.
6. The use of illegal drugs is creating a criminal culture, 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.
8. I support the availability of voluntary euthanasia.
9. I will donate any pay rises awarded to Parliamentarians during my term of office to Fisher sporting clubs or other worthy causes in Fisher.

I request the opportunity of representing you in the SA Parliament.