

# STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW

## Party of Australia

Newsletter

Issue No. 14

25<sup>th</sup> May 2013

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### Billboard

We have decided to make a special appeal to our members and supporters to erect a large outdoor billboard to publicise our party. A mock up of the proposed billboard appears below:-



In order to do this we need to raise funds, as a billboard of the size we prefer will cost approx. \$10,000 for one month. This covers the cost of a very large and prominent billboard, on one of the high volume traffic routes in Adelaide e.g. Main North Rd.

Donations can be made by sending a cheque or money order to Stop Population Growth Now , Box 134, Brighton SA 5048 , or by depositing direct to our Westpac account BSB 035-045 Account number 276115 (Type "Billboard" in reference field). Note donations up to \$1500 pa are tax deductible.

**IF YOU DONATE BY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, YOUR DONATION WILL BE DEDUCTIBLE IN THE 2012/2013 FINANCIAL YEAR.**

Note that if donations are insufficient to cover the cost of the billboard, the donations will be used to pay for corflutes (election posters) for the next state election.

### **Call for Candidates**

We hereby call for persons to indicate their interest in contesting the next SA election in March 2014 as endorsed SPGN candidates for both the House of Assembly, and the Legislative Council.

It is important to note that the Management Committee firmly believes selection of candidates must be done by a general meeting of members, not by the Management Committee. Such selection is planned to be done in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting, which will be held in the next few months. **In the meantime , interested candidates are invited to express their interest by emailing the Convenor.**

The role of the Management Committee will be to advise intending candidates of the type of information members are likely to require in order to make their choices, to ensure that each intending candidate is afforded a proper opportunity to present their case, and to devise an orderly process for the selection to take place. Members of the Management Committee reserve the right to comment and vote, as individuals, on particular candidate applications.

Intending candidates need to note that they will need to sign an agreement (this is not particularly onerous) with SPGN before being endorsed. This would need to be completed before the selection meeting. A copy can be supplied to intending candidates on request.

Intending candidates are advised that some limited financial support may be available , and of course, as many of our 300+ members will be mobilised as possible to assist with the campaign.

Finally, please do not be discouraged from nominating because you think you cannot win. I know from many communications with the public, that there is a very big proportion of electors who support what we are trying to achieve. They may not want to join our party, or openly support our cause for fear of alienating someone, but when it comes to the privacy of the ballot box, many of them will give us their vote, especially in view of the widespread disillusionment with the major parties.

Please consider.

### **SPGN Dinner**

On Saturday evening 13<sup>th</sup> July 2013, a dinner for members and supporters will be held at the German Club (Hans Heysen Room) at 223 Flinders St Adelaide SA.

It is intended that attendees will arrive by 6.30pm, and possibly have a drink or two before ordering and paying for dinner from the bistro in the room next door. The food offered is excellent and there are plenty of dishes available for under \$20. A bar is available for attendees to purchase drinks.

The purpose of this dinner is to celebrate our formal registration as a political party, to formally thank all those who have made that happen, and to provide an opportunity for all members to meet. Although this will not be a formal meeting, there will, during dinner, be a brief report on our plans and activities by the Convenor at about 8.00 pm.

Intending candidates may also wish to attend to make themselves known.

Please come along. I have met and corresponded with many of our members. Without exception, they are pleasant and interesting people, whose company you will enjoy. Attendance is not restricted to members. Partners and friends are also welcome

**If you are attending, you must RSVP the Convenor on 0488 071 799 or email [convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com](mailto:convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com) by Friday 5th July 2013. This will allow us to ensure there is sufficient seating provided, and to advise the catering staff.**

**Campaign for the March 2014 SA election (contributed by John Tons – Management Committee)**

Although this seems still a long way off we have already begun to lay the ground work for a successful campaign. No doubt you will encounter many friends who are sceptical of our chances - so here is some information that will give you some grounds to be confident that we will stand a very good chance of winning at least a seat in the Legislative Council.

Members of the Legislative Council are elected for an 8 year term. This year those who entered parliament at the 2006 election are up for re-election. To refresh your memory the 2006 election was the one where Nick Xenophon won 20% of the vote with the result that we discovered that we had elected not only Nick Xenophon but Ann Bressington as well.

Later when Nick went to Canberra his seat was taken by John Darley. So Ann Bressington and John Darley will need to be replaced. Most people looking at the election will come to the same conclusion as I have -: their seats are extremely likely to go elsewhere. Given that both the Liberals and Labour are not exactly flavour of the month chances are that these seats will go to one of the minor parties: Greens, Family First, will be eyeing these off rather greedily.

As you know there is a federal election in September and a state election in March. At present we are not in a position to contest both.. So your Management Committee has decided to focus our efforts on the State election where we have a reasonable chance of gaining a seat.

What we do know from the 2006 election is that 20% of the electorate are prepared to move their vote away from the major parties but they must be offered a viable alternative. This is evidenced by the results from the 2010 election. The 20% of people who voted for

Xenophon largely went back to the major parties. At that election Labour and Liberal had 4 seats each with the Greens, (6.64%), Family First (4.4%) and Dignity for the Disabled (1.19%) taking the last three seats. This can be interpreted as showing that about 17% of those who voted for Xenophon went back to Labour and the Liberals.

But we do know that people are increasingly concerned about rampant population growth. What this means for us is that if we run a very good campaign we may be able to achieve somewhere in the vicinity of four to six percent of the vote - those numbers would be enough for us to be confident of winning a place on preferences. BUT IT WILL NOT FALL IN OUR LAPS! We must work for it. So that is why this newsletter provides information about how you can assist with ensuring that we get the first SPGN member elected to the Legislative Council.

### A Successful Campaign - how you can help

1. Consider standing as a candidate. Our candidates need to be seen as ambassadors for our party – whether or not people vote for us will depend on how well our candidates demonstrate that they are people who can be trusted to do a good job.

Or Join any of these groups:

2. Fundraising – we are in the process of establishing a fundraising subcommittee. The role of that committee is to come up with ideas that will generate funds – we have very little money and modern campaigns rely on money for their success.
3. Policy – while we are not in a position to develop a set of policies covering areas other than population growth in time for the election, what we can do is take a close look at the policies of the other parties and highlight the way those policies either ignore population growth or rely on population growth. This will give voters a clear idea of why our party is a realistic alternative.
4. Campaign – we have begun sketching out a possible campaign strategy but ideally we need four or five people who are willing to work together to give shape and direction to our campaign.
5. Media – we will need to get lots of letters in the press as well as regular exposure on radio talk back – the more people here the better our chance of getting sufficient votes to get in .

If you think you can assist, please phone the Convenor on (0488 071 799) to have a chat about how you may best fit in, or send an email to

[convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com](mailto:convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com)

### **Interesting articles**

I am frequently in receipt of articles, reports etc that are relevant to our cause . It is not possible to reprint all of these, but I thought the following may be of interest. I have highlighted some key passages

**“Egypt: The Endangered Country**

In a rapidly changing world, nation states -- just like plant and animal species -- must evolve, adapt or perish. When the conditions that gave rise to their existence cease to exist, change must come. It can come in the form of a political breakup, as it did in the case of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia or, more recently, Sudan, but it can also take a more sinister form, as is now happening in Egypt.

It would be easy to blame the economic woes that now threaten to engulf Egypt on political uncertainty, corruption and bad policies, and to dismiss its current difficulties as transient in nature, curable by a strong dose of good policies, religious tolerance, and a restoration of stability.

In truth, Egypt's troubles have been a long time in the making. While political turmoil and missteps have brought them to a head, Egypt looks like a demographic dinosaur incapable of surviving for long in today's global economy. Egypt's fertility rate is declining, but the Population Reference Bureau projects that **its population, currently 82 million, will still rise to 136 million in less than 40 years.**

For the moment, Egypt is surviving on economic life-support in the form of U.S. foreign assistance and cash infusions from its Arab neighbors, but not for long. Without a much anticipated \$4.8 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund, disaster could strike in a matter of a few months, but even with the IMF loan, Egypt's long-term future is still very much in doubt.

The central problem, and it did not arise overnight, is that **Egypt is heavily dependent on food imports, particularly wheat, for its very survival. Importing far more than half of its wheat and nearly half of all its food,** Egypt must earn the foreign currency reserves needed to pay its import bills. Prosper or perish.

Egypt, however, shows no sign of prospering. For decades, Egypt relied upon oil exports to help pay for the importation of food and fuel, but Egypt is now a net oil importer. Its other economic mainstay, the tourist trade, has dropped precipitously, and while renewed political stability might restore tourism to its former levels, it will never be a growth engine for Egypt, particularly if the European Union and other advanced economies continue to falter.

For Egypt to survive it must achieve a dramatic boost in manufacturing or agricultural production... or both. Neither, however, is a prospect. Egypt has no shortage of young workers, but its labour force is poorly educated. One-quarter of its populace is living in severe poverty, and many of its youth will never find productive employment. If there was a surplus of arable land in Egypt, they might find jobs on the farm, **but what arable land Egypt has is slowly being lost to the growing salinization of the Nile delta.**

Egypt hopes one day to make its desert bloom by pumping water from underground aquifers, but it cannot pay for the diesel fuel needed to keep existing pumps operating, let alone undertake a massive new irrigation project in the western desert.

**Soon, if not already, it will not matter who rules Egypt; the challenges will be insurmountable.** For the moment, the Morsi government faces a Hobson's choice. The IMF is demanding an end to the terribly inefficient food subsidies that keep the poor fed and the diesel fuel subsidies that artificially support the farm economy. If the government rejects those terms, it will not have the cash needed to finance its imports. If it accepts the IMF conditions, the food and fuel subsidies must be curtailed. Either way, prices of food and other essentials will rise dramatically and political unrest will invariably spread. Pick your poison.

Egypt is not the only nation on the endangered country list. **There are numerous countries that have no realistic prospect of growing enough food or earning enough foreign currency reserves to feed their projected population growth.** Other nations on that list include such notables as Somalia, Yemen, Mali and even Pakistan. Unless more is done to meet the family planning and reproductive health needs of women in those countries, they will never make the demographic transition to peace and prosperity. They will remain forever on the other side of the demographic divide that separates the developed and emerging economies from the least developed countries of the world.

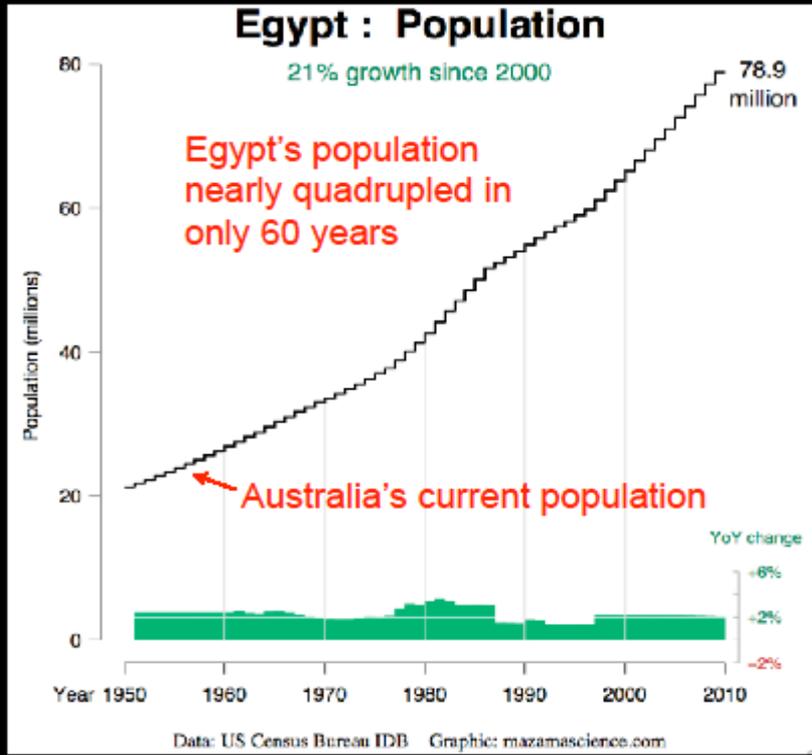
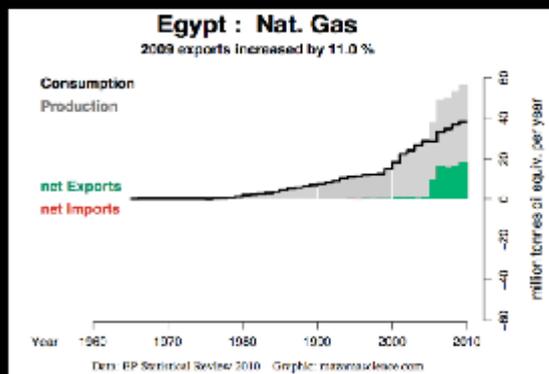
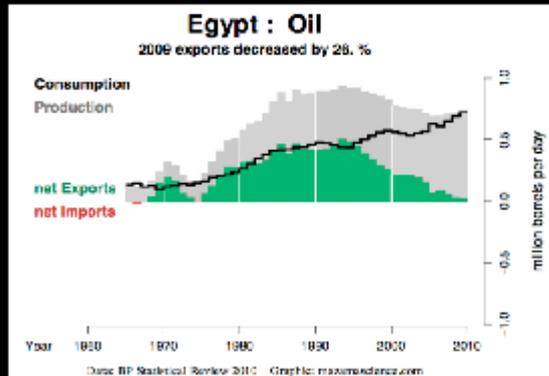
Not long ago, when the global economy was still booming, it was hoped that all countries, no matter how fast their populations were rising, would eventually prosper. If Egypt is any indication, that hope is now fading.

(This op-ed by Population Institute President Robert Walker originally ran on April 2, 2013 on The Huffington Post).

## **“Bread, Freedom, Social Justice”**

– the rallying cry in Egypt during the “Arab Spring”.

<http://ourfiniteworld.com/2011/01/29/whats-behind-egypts-problems/>



**Egypt imports 40% of its food, and 60% of its wheat. Note the 2% population growth similar to Australia's! No hope for Egypt.**

### Letters to the Editor

Here are two letters sent recently that members will relate to:-

Dear InDaily,

In your article of 6 May (Population: the debate behind SA's planning battles) I found Planning Minister Rau's comments on a stable population for SA to be both ignorant and very offensive but, unfortunately, not uncharacteristic of many Labor Party members in state and local government. Stating that, a stable population could only be achieved if, "... everyone of productive age is going to be sterilised in Adelaide and the borders of SA will have to be bolted down and no one can enter the state from interstate ... and nobody will be allowed to migrate into this country from overseas and come to South Australia" is simply wrong. To stabilise Australia's (and SA's) population all that would have to be done is to balance immigration with emigration – currently running at about 85,000 per year (Yes, people actually do leave Australia as well as come here!) Removing the baby bonus or giving it only for a woman's first two children would also keep replacement births at an

average of two per woman or lower. And Rau's belief that immigration can make a significant difference to the age structure of our population is also wrong – as pointed out by Hugo and by demographers [McDonald and Kippen](#) as long ago as 1999. The tragedy for Australia and SA is that we were on track to a stable population only 13 years ago before the business community and other migration proponents convinced the Howard government to massively increase immigration (under the smokescreen of being “tough on refugees”). This unfortunate policy has been enthusiastically continued and expanded by Labor.

Your article also did not mention the recent state registration of the “[Stop Population Growth Now Party](#)” that will strongly contest the next SA state election.

Sincerely,

Michael Lardelli

(Michael is a member of the Management Committee of SPGN)

The following letter is short but eloquent, and illustrates perfectly the folly of population growth

The Canberra Times Saturday September 8 2012, letters :

### **Our growing population renders solar targets pointless**

The construction of the new solar power plant (“ACT to get Australia’s biggest solar power plant” September 6, p2) provides a felicitous example of the futility of rapid population growth. It is claimed that the plant will provide power for 4400 homes. However, less than a year after the plant feeds electricity into the grid, there will be an extra 4400 new homes occupied in Canberra.

The residents will, like the rest of us, use as much electricity outside the home as in it. They will also use fossil fuels in getting about the city.

It will require draconian reduction in electricity consumption together with higher prices to achieve the carbon targets set by the ACT government. I for one am quite content to give it a go. However, with even a modest population growth rate the ambition is doomed to failure and I may as well not bother. I think I’ll have a very long electric-powered shower before going out tonight.

Nick Ware, O’Connor

### **Reminder about membership fees**

As you may remember, we have 2 categories of members – Ordinary and Associate. The only difference is that Ordinary members pay a membership subscription (\$25 pa non concessional, \$20 concessional) and they have the right to vote at meetings, whereas Associate membership is free, and has no voting rights.

Those Ordinary members whose membership subscriptions are not up to date will, under our rules, be unable to vote at the important meetings coming up soon, including the AGM at which candidate selection will be made.

We will shortly be posting out statements to those who have overdue subscriptions. Please note that several payments have been deposited directly into our bank account with insufficient details for us to identify the payer. If you think you fall into this category, please provide details of the date you paid, and any supporting documentation.

Please also note that the Management Committee will be pleased to process requests to change your category of membership.

### **Your Management Committee**

Detailed profiles of each committee member are maintained on our web site. However, in this information age, it is easy to overlook that many do not have access to the internet.

Therefore, a list of our committee members, and brief notes about each, are listed below.

#### **Bob Couch (Convenor)**

A profile was printed in the last Newsletter

#### **(Dr) John Coulter(Member)**

John practised as a medical doctor before moving into medical research. In the late 80's he was elected to the Australian Senate, and subsequently became leader of the Australian Democrats. John has a long history of activism in matters concerning the environment, including the promotion of zero population growth policies dating back to the 70's. John co-founded SPGN with Bob Couch. He lives at Longwood in the Adelaide Hills.

#### **(Dr) Michael Lardelli (Member)**

Michael is a Lecturer in Genetics at Adelaide University, where he runs a research laboratory. He is a prolific writer on environmental matters. He has a special interest and expertise in the matter of "Peak Oil" (the study of how long our oil supplies will last), and has co-authored a book on the subject. Michael lives at Kensington Park, in Adelaide.

#### **Gary Goland (Member)**

Gary was employed in the medical research field for many years before retirement. He has a special interest in the health and well being of communities affected by excessive noise, and emissions from industry . He lives at Oaklands Park in SA.

#### **John Tons(Member)**

John has held senior positions as a teacher, and later as a consultant before setting up and running his small business at Lenswood in the Adelaide Hills. John is also a prolific writer on matters affecting our future, and is very active in his community. He lives at Lenswood .

Elections for Management Committee positions will be held at the Annual General Meeting later this year.

Regards to all

Bob Couch, Convenor (on behalf of the Management Committee)