

# STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW

## Party of Australia

Newsletter

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### The forthcoming SA election (15<sup>th</sup> March 2014)

This is the current focus of our efforts.

The existing parties in the SA Parliament, no doubt partly in response to the election to the Australian Senate of candidates with very few first preference votes, and partly to help their own interests, have recently passed changes to the Electoral Act , that make it much more difficult for candidates that are not endorsed by registered political parties (SPGN is registered as a political party).

Specifically, if a Legislative Council candidate is not so endorsed , he or she must lodge a deposit of \$3000 (formerly \$450) with his/her nomination, and have that nomination endorsed by 250 electors (formerly 10). Other changes include giving registered parties a more favourable position on the ballot paper. As a registered party, SPGN only has to lodge 2 signatures with each nomination, and the old deposit (\$450) is expected to still apply.

Note that all the formalities needed to make these changes law have not been completed. However, it is expected that they will be completed in the near future.

The upshot of this is that SPGN should have less competition at the election.

### Call for Candidates

The Convenor of SPGN (Bob Couch) has offered himself as a candidate for the forthcoming SA election. The Management Committee has endorsed his candidature for the Legislative Council.

It is most important that we have another person to be a candidate for the Legislative Council (SPGN will cover all costs). We are also interested in supporting persons who may be interested in running for House of Assembly seats.

Please contact the Convenor on 0488 071 799 or [convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com](mailto:convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com) if you are interested.

### **Fund raising for the election campaign**

We are not a wealthy party, but we have managed, by carefully conserving our funds, to order a quantity of advertising material for use during the election.

However, much more will be needed to get our message across. In particular, if we can raise the money, we would like to place some advertising in suburban and provincial newspapers. If you can help, you can send a cheque or money order to Stop Population Growth Now at Box 134 Brighton SA 5048 or deposit direct to our bank account (Westpac BSB 035-045 Account number 276115 (Please enter your name in the reference field).

Note that donations to our party up to \$1500 per annum are tax deductible.

### **Help during the election campaign**

Please contact us on [convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com](mailto:convenor@stoppopulationgrowthnow.com) or 0488 071 799 if you are able to help in anyway. There are a number of jobs that need to be done, including letterboxing of leaflets.

However, we particularly need persons who are prepared to erect corflutes i.e. those signs that are attached to street poles and the like. We will have many hundreds of these to erect in a very short time from 15<sup>th</sup> February. Persons doing this will need transport and a ladder (although we may be able to loan ladders if required).

Please help if you possibly can.

### **Letters to the Editor**

The following two letters were written by Convenor Bob Couch and sent to the Advertiser recently. Both were written in response to articles critical of our opposition to population growth. The first one has been published. We are hopeful the second one will also be published.

**Dear Editor**

**Mr Angove of the Property Council attempts to make a case for population growth in SA (Letters 11th November).**

**However, his arguments do not stand up to close analysis.**

**For example, he says "successful cities are those that welcome the innovation and intellectual capital that an injection of new blood can bring". Firstly, he does not define "success" or give examples of those "successful cities". Secondly, one could argue that adding a few individuals like Bill Gates would benefit us, but not the hundreds of thousands that Mr Angove advocates.**

**Mr Angove is disappointed at the fact that "Adelaide's total urban population density has only increased by 7% since 1996". I suggest that is good, not bad. Our roads are already snarled at peak hours, our water supplies are precarious, our fisheries under pressure, and residents are already having to fight high rise in their neighborhoods. In short, we already have problems with a 7% increase - the last thing we want is more.**

**Mr Angove suggests "we are smart enough to produce a better outcome without stressing our existing tax base". I have news for him - it is already stressed. Household budgets are already strained and the state has a record deficit. I see no evidence that flooding this state with hundreds of thousands more people is going to help, especially as each new person will cost**

approx \$200,000 in infrastructure (hospitals, schools, roads, etc) needed to support them. For the 560,000 persons the SA Government wants to add in the next 30 years that is 112 BILLION dollars.

Mr Angove says "(population growth) " is critical to lifting productivity and labour market participation". Exactly how does population growth increase labour market participation when present unemployment levels are so high. And exactly how does it increase productivity. By depressing wages because there is more competition for jobs, I suppose.

Mr Angove goes on to say :**"Vibrant cities are those that harness people power"**. Firstly, I am not sure what this sentence means. Secondly, I note that the property industry loves the word vibrant. They use it all the time to promote their developments. It actually means **"noisy and crowded"** and its use should be prohibited as misleading advertising.

Like Mr Angove, I am interested in the future of the many thousands of good South Australians engaged in the building industry. It is clear to me that many, many thousands of SA houses and business premises are in need of major renovation. Further, we need to look closely at building more small factories which can engage in import replacement manufacturing. I suggest that Mr Angove and his Property Council look to these areas to maintain their work.

**But we do not need more people in SA . We have enough now.**

**Bob Couch  
Convenor  
Stop Population growth Now Party**

Dear Editor

The Stop Population Growth Now Party (SPGN), which will run candidates in the forthcoming SA election, believes in zero population growth (ZPG). Mr King (Opinion 3/12/2013) and persons such as Mr Richard Angove of the Property Council clearly support a big population (BA - Big Australia). The SA Labour and Liberal Governments also support BA and, as usual, the Greens are confused about the matter.

Before challenging Mr King's particular statements, I would like to address a fundamental question. Supporters of BA repeatedly assert that we must grow our population in order to prosper. But they NEVER address the fundamental question of how will we prosper when population growth is no longer possible. (No rational person believes we can grow forever.) The fact is we do not need population growth to prosper. Denmark is an example. It is peaceful, prosperous, has good social security, and achieves this with negligible population growth. In fact, population growth makes each of us poorer. It costs approx. \$200,000 to provide infrastructure and services at the current level for each additional person. This is money we do not have. Instead, governments are sliding into deeper and deeper debt and privatising what few assets we have left. If population growth was the path to prosperity, the average Indian would be rolling in cash - every year India increases its population by as many people as live in Australia.

Now to the specifics of Mr King's assertions. Contrary to his statements, SPGN has not "latched on" to the Community Alliance (CA) , an umbrella body for a number of residents associations in SA. In fact, our attempts to work with CA have been largely rebuffed due to a small number of vocal CA members quite hostile to our views. Unfortunately, these particular persons are invariably NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard). They are up in arms about highrise developments in their own neighbourhood but they stubbornly refuse to recognise that population growth is the root cause of the problems faced by other neighbourhoods, not just their own. Nevertheless, some open-minded members of residents associations affiliated with the CA are members of SPGN.

Mr King states we want to "stop all 457 visas", and "many 457 applicants hold specialised skills not readily available in Australia". SPGN wishes to stop most 457 visas. These visas are being used as a substitute for training Australians. Our real current unemployment rate is about 13%, and almost double that for

young people. I am informed that major construction works in SA are employing Irish nationals on 457 visas to do concrete work. I have been a concrete labourer myself. The amount of training needed to do most concreting work is modest. Yes, there may be situations where it is in the national interest to recruit a person on a 457 visa. But these should be numbered in the hundreds, not tens of thousands.

Mr King states that "Over the last year, Australia's permanent migration fell by 4% to 152,410, while permanent departures rose to 91,770". This implies that immigration resulted in an increase of 60,640. This is at odds with the ABS website that shows "the preliminary estimate of net overseas migration (NOM) recorded for the year ended 31 March 2013 is 238,300 people". Mr King's figures are misleading.

Mr King names 8 prominent Australians who were immigrants to this nation. It is not these 8 that we are concerned about but the hundreds of thousands admitted each year. It is just silly to import 238,000 residents every year in the hope that there will be 8 who will make a significant contribution to our nation.

Mr King says "we are not running out of food, water, or energy". Take energy first. We are highly dependent on petroleum to keep our society running. BA supporters don't like to face it, but world petroleum supplies from conventional crude oil fields are predicted to halve by 2030. Petroleum in the form of diesel is critical to agriculture (especially grain growing) and transport. In relation to water, its supply is relatively fixed. The Murray-Darling system is already over utilised. Population growth means the available water has to be shared amongst more people, so each person gets less. One result is that gardens suffer. Pleasant gardens are a very significant part of the quality of life for thousands of South Australians. Reduce our water - reduce our quality of life. As for food, Mr King is right - we are not running out of it. In a non drought year, we normally have a good surplus of wheat for export. However, much of our other food is now imported. In the future, will an over-populated, climate-changed, fuel-starved world sell it to us. The point is that food, water, and energy all have limits. The bigger our population, the more we test those limits, and risk the future of our children and grandchildren

It is surprising that Mr King uses the experience of the City of Detroit to support his arguments. He seems to think its problems were caused by a reduction of its population. Not correct. It suffered because the car industry in Detroit, for a variety of reasons, greatly reduced its workforce. Unemployment increased massively as a result, and people moved away. Additionally, gross mismanagement of the city's business affairs was also a factor. If GMH closes at Elizabeth (heaven forbid), the quality of life of its residents will suffer, not because of population reduction, but because they have lost a huge source of income.

With respect to Mr King, I suggest the above facts demonstrate clearly we do not need more people in SA. We have sufficient now.

Bob Couch  
 Convenor  
 Stop Population Growth Now Party

### **New Year Greetings**

The Management Committee trusts that you have had an enjoyable Christmas and that 2014 will be good for you.