

**STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW**

# Party of Australia

**Newsletter**

**Issue No. 19**

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## Rising from the (nearly) dead

You could easily be forgiven if you thought we had sunk into oblivion. An explanation of our recent near invisibility, which I take responsibility for as Convenor, is required.

After contesting the Fisher byelection for SPGN in late 2014, I must admit I had run out of puff. I was quite exhausted after that event from putting up corflutes, organising people to hand out how to votes, and performing the myriad of other tasks necessary to run as a candidate. I had also spent quite a lot of my own money, so my bank account needed a rest.

There was also the matter that the original objective of SPGN had been achieved i.e. to give people who believe in zpg (zero population growth) someone to vote for. This was fulfilled on 2 occasions – when Alex (andra) Hodges and myself contested for the SA Legislative Council in early 2014 and the aforementioned Fisher by election.

The upshot was that I decided I would confine myself to writing letters to the Advertiser about population (moderate success there) and carrying out the actions necessary to keep our official registration with the SA Electoral Commission (our registration is still current), and then rev things up again before the next SA election.

However, I have recently decided I need to come out of hibernation. The population problem has not gone away. In fact, matters have gotten worse.

Another factor is the Sustainable Australia Party (SAP) (formerly called the Stable Population Party, and the Sustainable Population Party). I have reported on this party in previous Newsletters. Briefly, this Party has the same objectives as we do. It was formed in 2010, is registered as a federal political party, and has contested federal elections on several occasions, including the most recent one. Its level of support at elections is approximately the same as ours (averaging around 2%). SAP plans to contest the ACT election to be held soon.

It is worth noting that, unlike SPGN, SAP has a full range of policies other than those relating to population. These policies align quite well with the general views of the SPGN committee. We believe most of our members would broadly support those policies, which can be examined on their website [www.votesustainable.org.au](http://www.votesustainable.org.au) .

On several occasions, we have approached SAP to ascertain their interest in joining forces. The last approach was made in April this year. For one reason or another, these approaches were not fruitful. However, it is worth noting that SPGN and SAP members in

SA have helped each other in contesting past SA state and federal elections. We have now received an invitation (see below) to join SAP members at a social gathering.

Please turn over

This will give both groups an opportunity to meet, and may lead to some form of closer arrangements in the future. I encourage your attendance.

### **Invitation from Sustainable Population Party**

**Dear Bob**

**As discussed today, please advise if you would like to invite SPGN members to attend our upcoming Sustainable Australia party social networking function in Adelaide. It would be the first step in closer relations, which may extend to assisting each other at by-elections, elections, etc.**

**28/8, Astor Hotel (437 Pulteney St, Adelaide), 3pm, Pulteney room (holds 20-30 cocktail style). PAYG drinks and food.**

**Kind regards**

**William Bourke  
National HQ, Sustainable Australia Party**

### **Why we exist**

Sometimes I am approached by persons asking me to justify our policy of zero population growth. I am sure you also receive such approaches. Most people are not interested in a long, academic explanation so I find it useful to make the following brief points.

Point 1 - If population growth is so important to our continuing prosperity, what will the promoters of that growth propose to maintain that prosperity when we cannot expand our population anymore. After all, perpetual growth of our population is an impossibility.

Point 2 - If population growth is so necessary to maintain prosperity, how is Denmark, a prosperous and secure nation, able to do so when their population growth is negligible. If having big population growth is so beneficial, why is there so much poverty in India, which increases its population by the size of the whole of Australia every year.

Point 3 - Given that our roads are jammed at peak hour and are getting worse, our fisheries are deteriorating at an alarming rate, our water supplies, whilst ok at present, have a precarious long term outlook, housing is becoming more and more expensive (partly caused by demand by cashed up immigrants), and scarce jobs we need for young people in particular are being taken by arrivals from overseas, why do our politicians continue to support high population growth, when it is clear population growth is reducing our quality of life, rather than improving it.

**Latest available Australian Bureau of Statistics Population figures**

The preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia at 31 December 2015 was 23,940,300 people. This reflects an increase of 326,000 people since 31 December 2014. This comprised natural increase of 148,900 and net inwards migration of 177,100.

Regards

Bob Couch, Convenor, SPGN

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