

STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW

Stop Population Growth Now Newsletter

Issue No. 3

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From the Convenor (Bob Couch)

There are a number of matters that I would like to advise about.

Campaign Committee Meeting

As I foreshadowed in the last Newsletter, the Campaign Committee for the last Federal election met in Littlehampton to review our performance, and to document lessons learnt. This was duly done on 12th September.

Mount Barker Development

It is extremely disappointing that, despite something like 600 submissions being received against the Mount Barker subdivisions, the SA Govt ignored the wishes of the people, and is allowing this to go ahead with negligible changes. The splendid efforts of Carol Bailey and many others to fight this issue were simply ignored.

The government may have seen fit to ignore the 600 or so submissions but it is also clear that Mt Barker residents have become even more aware of the importance of stopping population growth. Not only did Carol Bailey get elected to council, but Ian Grosser, who was one of the people behind the stop urban sprawl campaign was elected. Brian Haddy, another prominent campaigner against the growth of Mt Barker came close to being elected as Mayor.

For me, this only serves to remind me of two factors behind the formation of our party. Firstly, the politicians will take no notice until they start losing votes to us. Secondly, while population growth continues to create a demand for additional housing, there will be pressure to destroy beautiful food growing land and open spaces for the purpose.

In the New Year, we must redouble our efforts to recruit more members. We are still a long way from recruiting the 500 members we need for Federal registration. Please continue to tell your friends and acquaintances about us, and urge them to sign up. Use the new facility on the website (www.stoppopulationgrowthnow.com) to tell people about us.

Council Elections

It was wonderful to see Bill Spragg (who ran for us in the Mayo byelection) be elected as Mayor of the Adelaide Hills Council. Well done Bill. May your Mayoralty be productive and satisfying for you and your constituents.

It was also very gratifying to note that Michael Lardelli, a member of our Management Committee, came very close to defeating the incumbent Mayor of Prospect, a declared Labour Party stalwart. Michael achieved this result despite his low profile and small budget. It showed how disturbed the people of Prospect are about plans to introduce greater population densities in the area.

Thank you also to John Tons, another of our Management Committee members who ran for the Hills Council, but did not get elected. Thank you John, for "having a go". Maybe next time, mate.

Stable Population Party

Some of our members are aware that , this year, a party with very similar objectives to ours, was formed in Sydney. It ran 2 Senate candidates in the last federal election . In November, with the approval of our Management Committee, I made contact with their Convenor, and flew to Sydney for the day to discuss future possibilities. I was cordially received. Since then we have written to them asking for further information. On receipt of that information, your committee will consider future possibilities, and recommendations to the membership.

Web Site

Our original web site was very capably created and maintained by a professional web site development company (JABA).

However, our member John Stevens of Littlehampton, offered to take over the maintenance at no cost, and to transfer the site to a much lower cost host.

This has now been done, and will save us at least \$600 pa, and that is just for hosting fees. Previously I was reluctant to make too many changes to the site, due to the cost, but now John is doing the maintenance, we are in a much improved position to keep it more up to date.

Thank you very much John, for your work.

Christmas

On behalf of your Management Committee, I extend to you the compliments of the season. May 2011 be happy and prosperous for you and yours.

Bob