

STOP POPULATION GROWTH NOW

Stop Population Growth Now Newsletter Issue No. 9 13th December 2011

Messages from members and supporters

I (Convenor) have received a lot of letters and phone calls supporting our aims in recent times. Typical of these is a letter from a person who wrote (in part) “What a pleasant surprise to take a notice from the letterbox and find that it contains a message which is 100% common sense”.

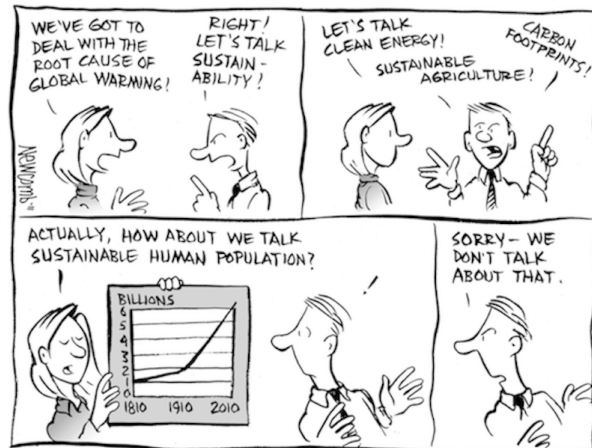
It is very satisfying to receive this sort of response, because, at the end of the day, what we aim for is indeed, just common sense. It is simply not common sense to cram in the order of 900 additional people into Australia every day when it can be shown that the existing population does not benefit. Indeed, our overall quality of life is lowered as a result.

Community Alliance

I recently attended the launch of this newly formed umbrella organisation for a number of residents associations in SA. Many of these associations are fighting unwanted developments in their respective areas. Invariably, these developments result from unwanted population growth.

It was revealing to note that, when both Nick Xenophon and Mark Parnell (Greens) addressed the crowd, neither mentioned the matter of population growth even once. I would sum up the content of both their speeches by saying they were comprised of little but feel good platitudes, full of words such as “we care”, “we will consult”, “we are listening” and so on, but no concrete workable proposals. It is a shame that Nick Xenophon, some of whose actions I support and admire, will not acknowledge the problem of population growth. The position of Mark Parnell was not surprising – the Greens are in complete denial as far as population growth is concerned.

I approached the ABC journalist covering the event, introduced myself, and drew his attention to the foregoing. He did not show the slightest bit of interest. With the qualification that I admire much of the ABC’s work, this seems to be typical of the ABC on population matters. In fact, the following cartoon may well apply to that organisation:-



Later, Carol Faulkner (Cheltenham Residents Association)) gave an address. It was splendid - it was ALL about population increase being at the heart of the problem residents' groups are having with unwanted developments.

Whilst I believe that a number of the residents' associations in the Community Alliance have not yet joined the dots between population growth, and the problems they are each having, I do detect an increased willingness by some to acknowledge this fact.

Membership recruitment

We still have some way to go to recruit the members we need for federal and state registration as a political party. Whilst we find that the great majority of persons we speak to are very supportive of our position, it is quite difficult to sign them up as members, as many in the community seem to have been turned off by the actions of political parties and are therefore reluctant to join any party.

A further difficulty we face is that the SA Government has just passed regulations that have increased substantially the number of members we need to register as a political party, and, additionally, require us to get a signed declaration from every member, every year, that they are still members. We believe that this is a clear attempt to make it harder for small parties to register. Our belief is reinforced by the fact that parties with a minimum of one sitting member, are exempt from this requirement. Surprise, surprise!

Nevertheless, we are determined to push on. We have already letterboxed many thousands of flyers, run film nights and public meetings, written letters to the papers, attended and addressed residents group meetings, given media interviews etc, and we will continue with this work.

We would be greatly assisted if any members could help with letterboxing. Would you call the Convenor on 0488 071 799 if you can assist. It would be much appreciated.

A further point – we can also productively use donations. Whilst SPGN is run on the proverbial “smell of an oily rag” and is administered completely by volunteers, postage, stationery, telephone, web site hosting etc etc cost money, so please consider helping in this way if you can. You can post donations to Stop Population Growth Now Inc Box 134 BRIGHTON SA 5048, or deposit direct to our bank account (Westpac,BSB 035-045 Account number 276115). Please provide sufficient details for us to send you an official receipt.

Seasons Greetings

Please accept our best wishes to you and yours for Christmas and the New Year. We remain committed to pursuing our cause in 2012 and we trust that you can continue to give your support.

For the sake of our children and grandchildren's future, we cannot afford to fail.

On behalf of Management Committee

Bob Couch

Convenor

