

THE GROWTH LOBBY

While all Australians pay the cost of growth, big business profits from it. This is understandable self-interest, but it is unconscionable that many politicians, journalists and academics support them. (See 'How the Growth Lobby Threatens Australia's Future', James Simenon, <http://candobetter.net/node/1002>)

The lobby finds ways to silence its critics. In the USA the prestigious Sierra Club was given \$100 million on the understanding that it would not continue to oppose the one million people p. a. migrating to America. (*Los Angeles Times* 27/10/2004)

The slur of racism by the growth lobby has stifled the population debate. Martin Luther King understood the cost of growth. Was he a racist?

"I don't think slowing the rate of growth is blaming immigration or ethnic communities."

Voula Messimeri, Chairwoman of the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia

Immigrants also suffer the effects of population growth. Poor migrants suffer the most.

The lobby promotes the fear of an ageing population.

But – *"Even large differences in the level of net migration will have a relatively small impact on the age distribution."*

ABS Projections, 2000, p. 2

Natural increase in 2007-2013 averaged 157,000 p. a., so our population would not decline without net migration, which makes us bigger, not younger and the aged contribute to society in many ways – ways worth billions of dollars.

What about humanitarianism?

Australia's policies serve the growth lobby, not the greater good. There is no virtue in luring away the best and brightest from poor nations. Australia poaches doctors and nurses from developing nations to service the huge rise in our population. We take about 1000 doctors and 2800 nurses a year; how many more come on temporary or '457' visas?

Most of Australia's migrants come for economic reasons; this is no way to help the world's poor. We should accept refugees and provide desperate women of the 3rd world – who procreate even when their children are starving – with the means of **family planning.**

THE ENVIRONMENT

"Instead of controlling the environment for the benefit of the population, perhaps it's time we control the population to allow the survival of the environment."

Sir David Attenborough (celebrated conservationist)



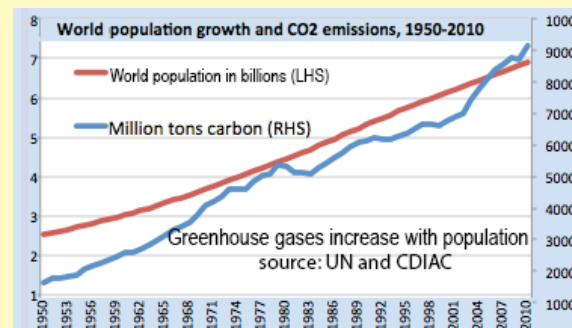
The World Wildlife Fund (worldwildlife.org 30/9/14) reports that the world wildlife population had halved between 1970 and 2010. The human population doubled in the same period, contributing directly to 82% of the loss of wildlife.



SQUIRREL GLIDER (*Petaurus norfolcensis*)
Population threatened by loss of habitat

We are already destroying the environment by overstocking on our poor soils, habitat destruction, and deforestation which is causing soil loss and salination. We are doing this in 2015 just to support nearly 24 million people. What would we do to support 64 million?

GLOBAL WARMING



Prepared by Roland Johnson for Sustainable Population Australia Vic/Tas
www.population.org.au

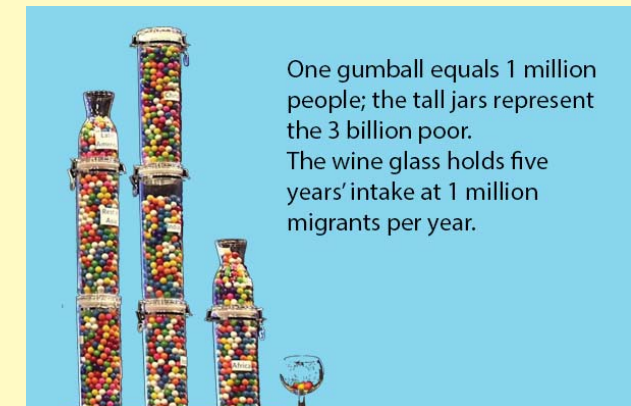
POPULATION OVERLOAD

'The modern plague of over-population is soluble by means we have discovered and with resources we possess. What is lacking is ... universal consciousness of the gravity of the problem and the education of the billions of people who are its victims.'

Martin Luther King, 1966
(revered symbol of human rights)



But powerful forces have opposed population control and the world's population has more than doubled since 1966 to 7 billion with 3 billion desperately poor. Migration to rich countries is not a solution. Watch the YouTube video on gumballs and immigration: <http://youtu.be/LPjzfGChGLE>



One gumball equals 1 million people; the tall jars represent the 3 billion poor. The wine glass holds five years' intake at 1 million migrants per year.

Even if Australia took 1 million people a year, the numbers of the poor would continue to grow at the rate of 80 million p. a. To help, we must help poor people where they are living now, especially with family planning. It is urgent we stabilise our numbers, both nationally and globally. Currently the world is finding it difficult to feed the world's poor. (UNFAO *The Age* 3/12/11, p. 16) It won't get easier!

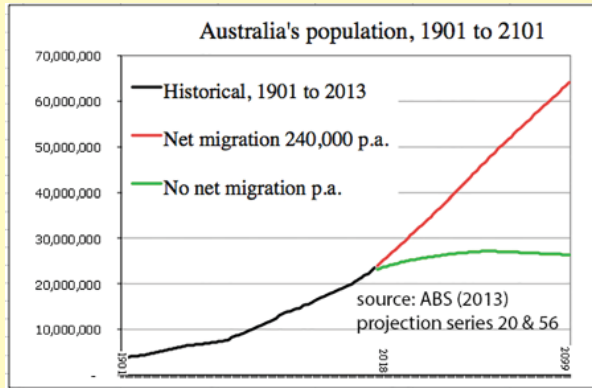
Australia

From 2007-13 Australia's net migration averaged over 230,000 p. a., boosting the growth rate to amongst the highest in the world. It is destroying our ability to help the world's poor, and takes us to 64 million in 2100, and rising. It must stop some time.

WHY NOT NOW?

A STABLE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION

Australia's fertility rate is around 1.9 per woman, technically below replacement – 2.1. But the population is still youthful. So we would keep growing due to natural increase until 2046, leveling off at 26 million. A policy to stabilise our population closer to 26 million, rather than 64 million, is needed.



The growth lobby of big business, developers and media moguls is forcing Australia's growth to be among the fastest in the world, with a natural increase of 157,000 p. a. plus over 230,000 p. a. net migrants, a total increase of around 400,000 each year – the population of Canberra. This growth is against the wishes of 70% of voters (K. Betts *People & Place* vol. 18/1, 2010). Our 1.8% p.a. exceeds Canada's high 1.2% & NZ's 0.8% (World Bank data bank).

The Immigration Department is overloaded. Immigration Dept. files reveal "... *enforcement capacity has collapsed ... nine in ten skilled migrant visas may be fraudulent. ... [Investigation into] a Somali people-smuggling cell ... linked to a terrorist suspect ... ceased due to a lack of resources.*"

The Age 7/8/14 pp. 1, 4

"Two thirds of new arrivals are on some kind of working visa, which are issued by licensed agents subject to rotting and bribes. Many visa holders, through a well understood system of visa churning, eventually gain permanent residency."

Dr R Birrell (SMH online 7/8/14)

Immigration policy can be changed. Around 80,000 people leave Australia permanently; this means we could have a refugee intake of 20,000 p. a., plus other special cases, and achieve NIL, or at least very low, net migration.

ECONOMIC COSTS

Dr Jane O'Sullivan's submission to the Productivity Commission, re 'Public Infrastructure Report' shows that each new person added to Australia's population costs taxpayers over \$100,000 in infrastructure.

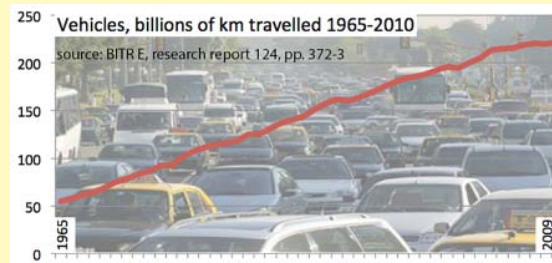
"[P]opulation growth and ageing will affect labour supply, economic output, infrastructure requirements and government budgets. ... Total private and public investment requirements over this 50 year period [to 2060] are estimated to be more than 5 times the cumulative investment made over the last half century ..."

Productivity Commission: *An Ageing Australia* Nov. 2013 p. 2

The Federal Government is dominated by the growth lobby. State governments compete for the prestige of a higher population, promote immigration and advertise for immigrants. They rezone prime agricultural land for housing. Local governments then increase rates, which forces the farmers off the land. Suburban councils also convert pleasant streets to high-rise ghettos to collect more rates. The cost of extra services are paid for by existing tax- and rate-payers.

Choking Cities *"Population growth is great for business but governments can't keep up, Roads are clogged and public transport is groaning. The health and education systems can't cope with demand."*

Alan Kohler, business commentator, *The Australian* 6/5/14 p. 30



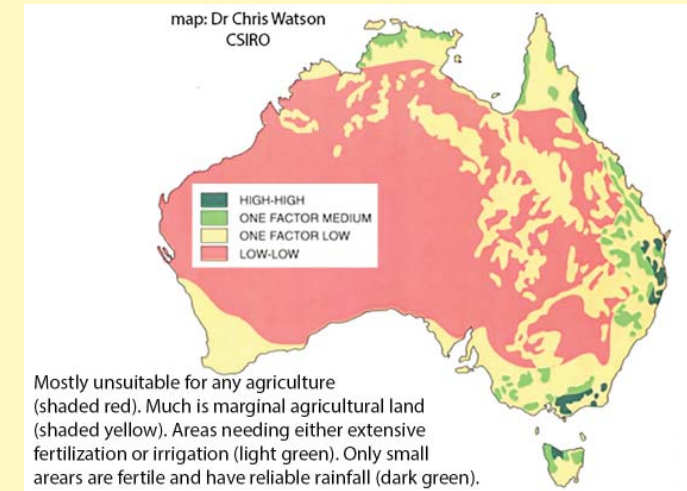
Employment: With many new workers and the loss of our manufacturing capacity, we are already unable to employ many of our young.

"Between 2011 and 2014 the number of jobs increased by 400,000 but new migrants took 380,000. Some 240,000 more young Australians entered working age compared with those who retired, but they had to compete for only 20,000 extra jobs."

Birrell & Healy 'Immigration and Unemployment 2014' Monash Centre of Population & Urban Research, Aug. 2014

AGRICULTURE

Australia looks big, but it is an old, dry continent. Sprawling cities are taking some of our best land – land high on the two factors of good soil and reliable rainfall.



"In parts of the Northern Territory pastoralism resembles a form of strip mining, exporting soil nutrients from some of the poorest soils in Australia."

Prof. John Woinarski, Charles Darwin University

Australia might be able to feed a domestic population of 60 million for a while, but this would leave us without food for export to pay for imports. A sustainable population must stay below 30 million; over that we start to sink to third-world standards.

Climate Change will badly affect Australia's agriculture with reduced irrigation in the Murray-Darling basin and marginal land becoming arid. The 'inexhaustible' Great Artesian Basin, is now declining. 'The Food Bowl of Asia' is a myth!

MINERALS

Iron ore reserves were once thought to be almost inexhaustible. Now, expert Dr G. Mudd of Monash University expects the economic resources to be essentially gone by the middle of the century. The supply of all minerals is finite and won't last forever.

We are one of the world's largest exporters of LNG, but this leaves little for the local market. In order to find more, pressure for fracking access to coal-seam gas builds up, risking polluting underground water and increasing food insecurity. (*Gas Today* 24/7/14)