

We The People
Program 65
Populate and Perish



In Australia there is roughly a birth every 2 minutes plus one international migration every 3 minutes. There is a death every 2.5 minutes so the net gain is an increase of 1 new Australian every 90 seconds. This means the Australian population is increasing by 350,000 people each year. Now that's a lot of growth for the driest continent on earth. Is the population increase good or will it ultimately lower our standard of living and work against a peaceful society and our fragile ecology. Most political parties argue it's a good thing but I believe they are demonstrably wrong so bear with me while I make my case.

Australia's population stands at 22.8 million while the Gold Coast is around 540,000. As a matter of interest the Gold Coast's actual population growth is slowing with a reduction of 35% on last year. The Mayor Tom Tate says this is worry but I think it's good because it means people are going elsewhere at a time where by any measure we are chockers. Now you can argue that the building industry will suffer and so on but the endless building based paradigm has to end at least to the extent it has been in the past. Winners in life see the paradigm shifting and adjust accordingly while the mayor and the councilors are still fixated by the old unsustainable paradigm which will ruin all we have in terms of lifestyle if they don't protect what we have now. The old paradigm of meter maids, tacky promotions, Council waste and endless urban sprawl is over and increases in living density are not the answer if we are to maintain our quality of life. On that note 43% of the dwellings on the gold Coast are now medium or high density while in Brisbane its just 22%. That reflects the program of retrospective infill which simply means cramming more people in to an area and overloading the entire infrastructure including roads. We are witnessing the construction of the slums of tomorrow coming to a street near you.

So more people means our community will change and the very reason we live here will be lost. If all business and government relies on never ending growth then that's what we get, more people. That notion is utterly unsustainable and we can all predict the dreadful effects of Rudd's big Australia. Today children often don't have a back yard anymore and that's vital as they grow. Roads are overloaded with traffic and in the case of new subdivisions streets are far too narrow. Houses are so close every word can be heard by the neighbours and in summer the loss of trees and the proximity of all that brick leads to hot suburbs, bad tempers and violence. Local government is plotting with the State government to infill suburbs with more people everywhere and the complete loss of zonings now means they can do what they want where they like. Town planning is now an oxymoron. Residential land zoning no longer exists and you have little tenure in terms of what your street looks like. This means you have far less idea what will be built in your street and you have no right to object. That's undemocratic and evil and the Council knows it and to this add political correctness and we have lost the foundation of our society.

The federal government has a plan to deal with all this called Sustainable Australia, Sustainable Communities. It's an attempt to deal with the issues but it fails to address what we the people want and it's all about the government and is little more than a political feel good manifesto. The document says quite clearly a sustainable population is essential but then goes on to say it can't and won't place a figure on it. That's just plain stupid. Our rivers run dry, while each year we clear hundreds of thousands of hectares of land, we send our wild life to the brink of extinction and we have a dreadful rate of poverty. The M1 is a long black car park morning and night while more casinos will just raise the crime rate as it does in every other country. I say cap the population of Australia at 23 million and encourage industries like medical research, technology, education, science and so on. We rode on the sheep's back and now on the coal truck but it's over. It's finished because of climate change, overcrowding, pollution, falling fish stocks, crime, foreign owner ship, cultural dilution, corrupt business and politics, environmental mismanagement on every front leaving a legacy to be ashamed of for our children. It's ok to say no in my view to many things and in a democracy we can, regardless of other countries or international agreements. Make your voice heard now and make it loud, lest we regret.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley