

Hello Consultant(s),

I wish to endorse Planning Matter's submission for Tasmania's population strategy.

And, as a rural General Practitioner and student of UTAS Dip Sustainable Living I am suitably qualified to write the following observations.

This is the ideal time to plan for a State with a healthy future that aligns with sustainable values that are environmental, social and economic minded; and as suggested by Thiele, involve cultural creativity whereby the former three values are carefully addressed and balanced.

Our State possesses such delicate balance and has suffered from ill-considered industries that pillaged our natural resources.....and still does. Timber (esp hardwood pulping), mining, fishing of salmon, crayfish, abalone, scalefish, and hydro-electricity have provided jobs however these are and have been clearly unsustainable and have cost Tasmania as profits are enjoyed by the industries rather than the owners of the natural resources.

Socially, our population suffers the worst heart disease in Australia, rates of drug use including alcohol and tobacco pre-empt chronic disease such as cancer, heart and lung disease. P;ummeting socio-economic standards now underscore inadequate and unaffordable housing, literacy and numeracy levels that are woefully behind other States, and a health crisis whereby primary health care access is beyond crisis levels. I question the plan to provide adequate and affordable housing for newcomers to Tasmania, or perhaps only the very wealthy permitted access thus prices increase and labour and services cannot afford to reside in Tasmania. (a parallel is the village of Bicheno where house prices are massive and permanent rentals seldom occur)?

Tasmania's prime industry is tourism. People visit and holiday because of our National Parks, pristine wilderness, clean air, quality produce, and quirky hamlet and towns. Defacing kunanyi, Cradle Mountain or other iconic natural places with a cable car or similar, or planting a resort in the middle of a National Park is wanton desecration.

Tasmania has a unique opportunity to control population carefully with objectives for sustainable healthcare, housing, tourism opportunity and employment. Climate change, waste, over-population and over-development threaten the very environment and economy and society many have chosen to live and raise their children in.

Yours faithfully

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