

The following is the individual response of Helen Tait, Tasmania to the State Growth policy paper at https://www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au/policies_and_strategies/populationstrategy/consultation_page

I also support and endorse the representation of Sophie Underwood of the Planning Matters Alliance of Tasmania (PMAT) who is able to bring professional and informed scrutiny to this government paper.

I am a member of PMAT through several action and response groups impacted by poor oversight, or outright neglect, of the environment by;

- under-staffed government departments
- government policies fixed on **ever escalating (ie therefore unsustainable)** economic growth
- elements of planning that severely undermine the sustainability of a healthy condition of the environment,
- elements of planning that do not adequately recognise or protect the natural values and consequent lifestyle possibilities that are widely and irrevocably known as Tasmania's strongest asset.
- elements of state-wide planning provisions that bypass local input and scrutiny

It deeply concerns me this government paper is moving towards strongly endorsing population growth as essential for every element of the State's well-being.

Sustained economic, and population, growth is not rigorously substantiated in this discussion paper, as good for everything, and in fact is much evidenced to the contrary for small island economies.

A **sustainable economy, and population** for the long term is surely the more viable option

Being that the State of Tasmania's well-being is so predicated on the exceptional values of our environment it seems disingenuous to promote the premise of the theory of goodness of accelerated population growth without having a State of the Environment Report:

-Particularly one that is modern, sophisticated and well scrutinised on a national and international level for both the short and long term.

-Particularly one that recognises that the state of the environment should be measure with regard to, not just human beings but the many other lifeforms that critically enable a viable environment.

I would like to be able to more fully respond to the questions that have been put for consideration in this report. However, that requires considerable discussion and thought, over time, that is perhaps better put via an advanced style of Citizen's Assembly.

Please put my name forward for such a process towards good responsibility and accountability for such an important policy.

Sincerely Helen Tait