

To Whom it may Concern

Thank you for the invitation to comment on this strategy.

I have lived in Scamander for 21 years and have travelled all over Tasmania, and so feel qualified to comment on population matters in the State.

I don't agree that the Government has delivered a bold programme of anything.

Here, on the east coast we have noticed the population growth over time, which has come without the accompanying infrastructure, essential services or resources.

For instance, traffic is now becoming a real problem, especially at peak tourist times. Lack of access to health services is frightening. I had to wait 3 months to see my Doctor.

The loss of bushland is very obvious here. This impacts on the quality of our lives and lifestyle. I note that 'happiness' is included as a key success factor, with 'wellbeing' also a major goal. These traits have certainly diminished for me over our time here.

To increase population more would incur massive costs on infrastructure, especially roads. State Growth cannot keep the roads we have now repaired and safe. We know this only too well, with the Passes closed for extended periods recently.

As for technology and accessing the internet it's just a joke down here if you're out of range of the NBN. Over this last Christmas period on some days we could not access it at all.

The State Government does not have a mandate or social licence to pursue high population growth rates. It is just being a lackey to the property development and real estate industries who want to perpetuate the population led development ponzi scheme!

"The desired long-term impact of the Population Strategy is improved wellbeing outcomes for Tasmanians." This is a noble goal, but high population growth is not the way to achieve it. What is needed is slow, structured, qualitative and genuinely sustainable low growth, if we are to regain the lifestyle and liveability that we used to enjoy.

"Liveability means living in communities that are safe, inclusive, and environmentally sustainable". Sustaining the natural environment is impossible if high population growth is allowed to happen. For instance, our water resources cannot support any more people. The present growth in houses being built that I see around me and in other areas is alarming and disheartening, and cannot be sustainable.

In my personal experience, the Tasmanian State Government and certainly State Growth, do not value the wonderful gift they have in the natural environment of Tasmania. The phrase "killing the goose that lays the golden egg" comes to mind, with all the destruction which successive governments have sanctioned over the years.

In conclusion then, the Government needs to consult and listen to the needs, wishes and aspirations of its citizens, respect the natural environment, and have the courage to act on those and not the ambitions of the profit making entities.

Valerie Legg