

I do not support the main premise of the Population Strategy that "Population growth is important to Tasmania to support the economy, provide essential services and encourage greater diversity."

Tasmania is part of a global community and any strategy for Tasmania's population needs to consider the global situation and future trends. The main global issues are:

- over population
- over consumption of resources
- biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
- climate change, increasing temperature and greater variability in rainfall, temperature, cyclones, etc
- disease pandemics spreading rapidly and globally
- refugees increasing
- war and conflict between nation states and between people, corporations within countries
- water and resource scarcity
- food insecurity
- pollution increasing and widespread
- misinformation undermining democracy and decision making based on facts and science

The main factor influencing all these issues is over population. The birth rate in Western countries is now declining but consumption per person is increasing. In third world countries the birth rate is too high whilst consumption per person is low. The global population needs to reduce from 8 billion to 2 billion for every person to have a life style like current Western countries.

Tasmania can have prosperity without growth. Gross domestic Product (GDP) is not a good measure of societal happiness, liveability and wellbeing. There is no real evidence that long-term population growth is important to improve liveability, provide employment opportunities, encourage greater diversity, or manage the ageing population.

Sincerely,

Peter Lawrence