

I wish to make just two comments on the Population Strategy Consultation Paper and related issues:

1. Economic growth *per se* is of no value if it does not result in increased wellbeing. An important parameter is economic growth *per capita*. The consultation paper does not mention this. A larger population without increased wellbeing is pointless, and in fact likely to be counterproductive because of the negative impacts on liveability and the environment. I cannot support increased population unless it is clearly demonstrated that the wellbeing of all people will also be increased.

2. The Earth is a sphere and spheres are finite, and ultimately there are limits to growth. At some point the population of the world, and every part of it including Tasmania, will need to stop growing. That may or may not be in the near future but any population strategy that does not recognise the eventual need to achieve a stable population is short-sighted. A good population strategy would identify a way of transitioning to a population size that remains roughly fixed while still offering wellbeing to all through provision of adequate services without exhausting resources. Failure to address this will create greater problems in the future when the impacts of overpopulation become more apparent.

Peter Tuft