

I have read the Population Strategy consultation paper.

I am concerned about much of what the paper contains - so I will directly address only some of my main concerns here.

First, the paper states " A larger population improves the viability of services for community members and lowers costs through economies of scale." This is exceedingly simplistic - clearly there must be an optimum population; open ended growth cannot be the best solution. The paper makes no effort to work out what the optimum population level should be.

Further, this appears in the introduction: "We reached the 2030 population milestone eight years ahead of target and want to build on this success." If the authors of the paper think that simply growing the population is "success" then I question their suitability for the task. Surely a population strategy should be about providing housing, environmental impacts, adequacy of public transport, addressing inequality, health care and other services, education outcomes, restructuring industry and commerce to give employment opportunities... The list goes on, but these are not addressed in the paper. In fact, under the Scope section there is an illustration which lists many of these areas that should be addressed, but there are no plans given to address them!

There is much more too - many of which are well stated in the PMAT response, which I strongly endorse (I am not associated with PMAT).

Regards
Andrew Smith