

Dear Minister Barnett

I have both lived and visited Tasmania since 1976. As my daughter has recently relocated to work at LGH I will be spending more time here. After reading **REFRESHING TASMANIA'S POPULATION STRATEGY CONSULTATION PAPER JANUARY 2023**, I would like to offer the following comments.

The optimal population size for Tasmania would be when social, health, education, economic and environmental well-being outcomes are soundly achieved. As a number of these well-being outcomes are not being achieved in this state, it is reasonable to state that the current population has already exceeded the government's capacity to deliver these to its residents.

The health care system is in complete disarray here: difficult to access GPs, long waits for hospital services, understaffing of health care workers. The current solution is to employ interstate locum doctors on \$180 per hour = \$7,500 per week to try to fill the gap!!

There are historically high rates of very low literacy and numeracy in this state, and also high rates of teenagers involved in abusive relationships.

In your list of CHALLENGES (page 4) there is no mention of the health and well-being of your communities. The environment also does not receive a mention, yet unique environments such as the Takayna are still under threat by mining and logging operations.

In summary, increasing Tasmania's population will place further stress on existing problems. You need to focus on addressing these issues immediately. You have an obligation to provide adequate and effective services for the Tasmanian people. This is clearly not being fulfilled at the present time.

Yours sincerely

Sue Collings