

A Reality Check - Dot point and Discussion Notes (*Italics*)

Better Data and Modelling for Population and Economic Planning and Policy.

Reality check:

- We are entering a new Era. (A different Era: there is no choice).
The same arguments in support of population growth (founded mainly on immigration) have been used for the past 300 years. (Here and overseas).

These arguments are no longer valid.

The situation has changed dramatically. - A new Era. - There is no avoiding this now.

Future scenarios:. Possibly like the early 1900's, if lucky. No one will choose this , but it may happen at some time. Early action means better future outcomes – the precautionary principle. The World will determine what happens in Australia. We may be faced with a terrible choice: Do nothing and fry; or do something, and survive, with a possible serious economic meltdown.

The Era will almost certainly be marked by less fossil energy use. How much less is uncertain. (Whether climate Science is true or not).

No use of Fossil fuels is a possibility.

The past Era:

Population + Available Cheap Energy = Continuing Wealth increase (GDP).

GDP was positively leveraged on energy use (Think Energy slaves).

In the new era - this leverage relationship becomes negative.

The new Era:

Population + Scarce Energy + climate change = Negative Wealth growth (GDP).

There are alternative Energy arrangements, but we are not there yet. How long will it take/ last?

The survival of all life (All Flora and Fauna, including Human) may be at stake.

Old data (historical) and some models, may no longer be valid.

Policy:

- New policy thinking is essential – a transition to new era to be part of this.

It is risky to proceed further down the current path. We are risking everything. Transitional changes will be much easier over a long time frame.

- Clear Population Policy statement about National key objectives, including desired Population and Economic outcomes. Preferably based on various modelled scenarios.

Population numbers and demographics will become an increasingly important part of this.

Goals:

- A thirty year data picture of the future, (longer scenarios also desirable), inc. Probabilities.

Long time frames will become essential for planning purposes. (Ideally, we need to consider much longer time frames, perhaps 100's of years). Also Political processes may need to change.

- Policy and Planning based on this.
- Regular reviews, (say 4 yearly) to be prepared as a basis for policy review; continuous revision.
- 6 months target for completion of Initial outline (interim) working model (best data).

Needs:

- Better data and modelling is required. Feasibility studies. Overseas examples?
- Reliable, independent, data; without this, as a Nation, we are wallowing and directionless. ASAP.

Data and Modelling:

- Does the data exist for holistic planning/modelling of Population size, and Economic Outcomes?
- If not, is the data available, or can it be made available?
- Develop measures to collect data and make usable, as required.
- Develop an integrated, dynamic model based on best available data and probabilities, (including):
 - Climate change data - including global data.
 - Fiscal, financial data.
 - Demographics - Supportable Population numbers.
 - Economic data.
 - Energy scenarios.
 - Potential disruptive events; positive and negative eg. Droughts, Energy game changers.
 - Accumulation, and integration, of regional based data from modelling (possibly

including Agricultural Science data and modelling). A basis also for useful Regional plans.

Such regional Plans are urgently needed – now - to prepare and mitigate the current situation.

- Defence planning/strategic needs.

How:

- Organisation, possibly a new body or a branch of an existing body.
- Expert, independent team(s)
- Computing power based on sound modelling.

Summary:

The future will be nothing like the past.

Australia may be isolated. International gaming of the system will be widespread.

Old friends, or neighbours, may not be willing to help us out. It may become every Nation for itself. (Also others may have too many issues of their own to deal with).

Australia needs to be very flexible; The Government and the population must understand what is happening. Supply of water and food resources, shelter etc. may become critical.

Good modelling and Public dissemination of results is essential. Global data to form part of the model.

Better data and dynamic modelling (with probabilities) will not be the total answer, but is indispensable to an answer.

Debt may be a burden at some stage as productivity turns negative. So debt may become critical. (Public and Private net debt, in total, is currently 1 trillion dollars (1 million, million \$) . (Government 25% of this amount.).

Historical population growth cannot be reliably used as a basis for planning future economic growth.

Population size may be a critical factor to human existence, so flexible, realistic planning is essential.