

SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION ON THE MIGRANT INTAKE

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COALITION OF 250+ RESIDENTS GROUPS ACROSS CITY COAST AND COUNTRY

INTRODUCTION

To commence I want to make it straight that we residents who are suffering under the rapid increase of population to Melbourne and Victoria are unitedly opposed to the magnitude and the rapidity of this increase and what it is doing to our lifestyle and the liveability of Melbourne. This is because we are short of infrastructure and suffering from packed roads and public transport and the way our suburbs are being damaged because of the high rise and high density housing being forced on our suburbs and also overdevelopment in the central City, as well as Docklands and Southbank.

CURRENT SITUATION IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is increasing faster than any other advanced country. Most migrants want to come to the big cities with the result that Melbourne and Sydney especially are becoming unliveable. Melbourne is growing faster than any advanced city in the world.

We must reduce immigration back to what it used to be i.e. about 70,000. It could be even lower until we have caught up with our back log of infrastructure.

Australia has only a small amount of fertile land and we do not have enough water. What advantage to us to keep growing when our cities become too crowded and we have to rely on desalination. Gone will be the gardens and the good health that these provide.

Ignorant people say, but we are a big country we can have more people. I say then do what I have done and that is drive from Adelaide to Darwin - it is desert. Fly by light aircraft from Melbourne to Broken Hill to Broome to Cairns - you will see desert. We are not like the USA with the mountains and water they have. We are not like Europe with their fertile land and water supply. We can never have a big population.

THE DANGER OF TOO RAPID GROWTH

You can see it here in Melbourne - we are currently 10 or 12 years behind in infrastructure and we don't have the money to catch up. If growth continues at this rate with a corresponding lack of infrastructure we will end up third world. I speak from experience having lived in Jakarta for 21 years and seeing it grow from 3 million to 10 million way short of infrastructure. In the late 60's the city was closed by the Governor on advice from UN city planning experts who said the bigger a city gets the harder it is to manage and the megacities are beyond human management. President Soeharto forced the Governor to open the city and it is now a polluted gridlocked nightmare, and people forced to carry in their cars food water and portaloos. Melbourne is heading down that track as we increase by approx 50,000 cars a year and everyone is complaining. As well public transport, schools and hospitals, sewerage are struggling. Yarra Valley Water have declared Camberwell Junction and towards the west, to be at maximum sewerage capacity and still they keep approving more toilets and after heavy rain you can smell it coming out of the manholes. This is third world.

Each new migrant costs us \$200,000 for infrastructure - (Dr Jane O'Sullivan University of Queensland) It has been suggested that new migrants should have to pay for this.

The population is being pushed onto us because the government see it as the only way to keep growing the economy - building dwellings. It is a ponzi scheme. Is this going to go on forever in Melbourne , do we stop magically at 8 million in 35 years time.

DO WE BENEFIT FROM HIGH IMMIGRATION?

No - economists say that the overall GDP might be growing higher but per person we are worse off. This apart from all the nightmare of overstretched infrastructure

WHY PEOPLE OBJECT TO HAVING MORE PEOPLE

As Convenor of Planning Backlash Inc. I am aware of the problems that people face. I receive constant calls and emails from all over Melbourne, people objecting to the overdevelopment and high density properties going on around them, spoiling the liveability of their area. Council usually support them but VCAT invariably give the developers what they want. So we see Melbourne changing and the trees disappearing as more and more houses and apartments are crammed in existing areas. Trees mean a healthy environment and they are going and in their place more and more houses people and cars without enough infrastructure. They do not have the money to catch this up. We must reduce immigration or it will get worse.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Because of the number being forced on us we are rapidly destroying our environment and our native animals and birds. This is a very serious issue and a strong reason for holding our population down. In addition the more people we have the more pollution we have. How can we reduce the carbon footprint when we keep increasing the feet?

WHAT DO WE NEED IN THE WAY OF MIGRANTS

First and foremost we must only take migrants who have a chance of really assimilating and becoming part of Australia.

We are looked upon in Asia as a European country and I have had people there say we should keep it that way. It would be advisable to give preference to people of European background as they fit in much better. This is not being racist but people do feel more comfortable with their own kind. I have watched the various nationalities in Jakarta forming their own clubs so they can mix with each other and that is why they form ghettos here and never assimilate. A homogeneous society is a much happier one and less threatened. We must have social cohesion or we start not to trust people.

We should only bring in migrants who speak enough English to work here, I am seeing people with no English and no education. This is not right and not fair on them either. You cant migrate to other countries eg Indonesia or Japan.

SKILLED MIGRANTS

We should be training our own young in Technical schools and as apprentices. It is not good to bring them from overseas. From my experience in Indonesia their standards are very poor.

MULTICULTURISM

It is now being said openly in Europe Multiculturalism has failed and the push is on for total integration and assimilation into the country . Learn the language, the culture and mix with Australians and forget the culture they have come from or go home. Some people should never migrate because they are only happy mixing with their own and will never fit it. I lived for years, very happily, in an Asian country and learnt the culture and mixed with the locals and made wonderful friends and am always welcome when I return. Well I expect people coming here to do the same.

I know our government tries to pretend that multiculturalism is a great success here, well many of us disagree. Especially when we are forced not to comment because it is not politically correct to do so. We are sick of this PC nonsense. We in Australia have always been able to have free speech. Well I am using my right to say it as it is and say that what we all resent is that we have to modify aspects of our culture because it might offend some of these newcomers with different culture to ours. I say again if they dont like it here then go home. Europeans adopt our culture more easily and are the invisible migrants and this is preferable for the continuation of the Aussie way of life.

THE RICH COUNTRIES

The small European countries with stable and ageing populations are the rich countries, eg Switzerland Holland Scandinavia. The big rapidly growing countries with the youngest populations are the poorest ones - eg Africa and parts of Asia and Sth America. The small rich countries are investing in

super high tech, whereas our brainiest are lured to the States with scholarships.

A word about the growth rate in some countries. Indonesia have been successful at family planning and say 2 is enough as they try to hold the growth down. Bill Gates is currently pouring money into a factory in Indonesia to make birth control medicine for Africa in attempt to hold their increase down. We are well advised to slow our growth down too and our real growth comes from migration and that is easy to control. Get it back to what it was before it was suddenly escalated by the then PM.

WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING FOR THE ECONOMY

Start being a clever country and learnt from these small stable rich countries. Instead of having to pour money into infrastructure for these thousands of new migrants, pour that money into universities to train our young and assist those with ideas in developing those ideas here instead of losing them to the States. I know those who go off to Silicon Valley to big jobs, and those who do well at our Universities being offered scholarships to the States. We should be stopping this brain drain by giving them scholarships for here.

IN CONCLUSION

This migrant intake is causing so much damage to our cities from overdevelopment and packed roads and public transport and schools and hospitals. Our environment must be protected from any more destruction because of too many people. The intake should be dropped immediately to no more than 70,000 a year and the selection must be more careful to ensure that they are people who will be assimilated and not make us feel like foreigners in our own land. We should not feel a foreigner in our own country, this is resented by a large number of us. We will not modify our culture, and that includes free speech, in case it offends a migrant, if they don't like our ways they are free to go. They have to fit in with us.

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