

12 June 2015

Migrant Intake
Productivity Commission
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Dear Sir/Madam

In relation to the Enquiry regarding the Migrant Intake, I believe that the current level of intake is too high.

The figures quoted in your Issues paper as 2013 are out-of-date. It has been estimated that currently one in every two Australians are overseas born. Does that mean that second or more generation Australians are now the minority? What does this mean to the culture of Australia where there is erosion everyday into our lifestyle?

Every day in the newspapers, there is an article in relation to the problems caused by the population boom. In today's Herald Sun, it is reported that Metro Property Group is boasting it sold 100 house and land packages in Australia to people in China this weekend. In the same paper in the letters page residents of Melbourne suburbs are complaining about the change developers are making to their suburbs.

Where I live in the Eastern suburbs, changes are not by the decade but by the month as nearly every house is sold and demolished to build more houses. Whitehorse Council has announced that there are over 20 applications approved for high rise construction including one over 30 storeys and two over 20 storeys. The roads and public transport are overloaded and every week travel takes longer.

It is also noticeable that more families are bringing in their relatives from overseas. From personal experience,

- a) new migrants purchase houses in their parents/relative's names and later the houses are demolished for units and as temporary residents they apply for the Permanent Residency rebate on stamp duty as well as the First Home Allowance. Surely there is no way of knowing whether they have property in other countries and should these rebates only be for Australian citizens.
- b) As the population rises, the average Australian now can no longer count on the social security in their later years that they have worked hard for.
- c) Businesses are purchased in order to obtain residency, which are often closed after three years. The former employees are replaced by nationals.
- d) Many of these businesses employ staff on a cash basis which results in taxes not being collected on salaries.
- e) More friends and acquaintances cannot get employment, even though they have the qualifications and are trying hard for same. This seems to be escalating and it is nothing now to be looking for a job for six months or more.
- f) Local papers such as the Whitehorse and Manningham Leaders are reporting that overseas investment is buying up land. See attached.
- g) None of these new developments seem to cater for future environmental problems such as water and energy efficiency.
- h) There seems to be no planning in respect to the overload on power, water and public transport or the amenities to continue ;
- i) As the immigration rate rises, it seems the cost of living increases also, without any increase in the wages.
- j) Overseas developer seem to have no respect for our heritage buildings or our landscape. In Ringwood, a heritage listed property was demolished, without the proper permit. It was there one day and gone the next. Cheaper to pay the fine and obtain the outcome wanted.
- k) The landscape of my suburb has drastically changed in the last six months and continues to do so. It is more crowded, harder to travel within and the trees are being replaced by the same uniform housing boxes.

Australia has to develop industry and not simply rely on selling off its land and foreign ownership. This is a short term solution that lacks careful consideration and examination.

In fact this inquiry is probably too late, the damage has probably already been done.

Yours sincerely

C Matthews.