



Australian Senate

Bob Brown
Australian Greens Senator for Tasmania

19 February 2010

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Mr David Allan
1 Larnook St
Prahran VIC 3181

Dear David

Thank you for contacting Senator Brown about the important issue of population.

The Australian Greens' Population policy specifies that Australia must contribute to achieving a globally sustainable population. The policy also stipulates that our environmental impact is not determined by population numbers alone, but by the way that people live (the full policy is included below).

Senator Brown has raised the issue of population many times in the Senate. In October 2009, Senator Brown said "in the last few days we have had the Prime Minister talking up the prospect of an Australia in which 35 million people live. We are at 23 million now. We were some seven million when I arrived on the planet.

[...] But we have to ask the logical question of Prime Minister Rudd: 'Name the final point. What is the ultimate carrying capacity of Australia if you say that growth is dependent on population increase ad infinitum?' The logic of that is that there is no end point, that we not only continue to cram people into this giant country with very limited carrying capacity but we continue to cram our fellow human beings, all of whom aspire to life and happiness as much as we do, onto a planet which cannot bear it" (Hansard 28 October 2009).

On 13 November 2008, Bob moved the following motion:

Senator BOB BROWN (Tasmania) (Leader of the Australian Greens) (9:37 AM) —I move:

- That the Senate calls on the Government to develop a white paper on population during this period of government which takes into account:
- (a) projections of a global population of between 9 to 10 billion people by 2050;
 - (b) the inability of the Earth to provide for 9 to 10 billion people if average resource consumption is to be at current levels in Australia;
 - (c) climate change;
 - (d) Australia's inability to host exponential population growth; and
 - (e) the wellbeing of future generations and life on Earth.

You can be confident that the Australian Greens will continue working to support, through extensive community consultation, a population policy directed towards ecological

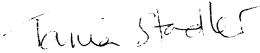
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sustainability in the context of global social justice. To keep up to date with Senator Brown's latest campaigning work, please visit his website at www.bobbrown.org.au.

Kind regards,



Tania Stadler
Office of Senator Bob Brown

Policy A7: Population

Principles

The Australian Greens believe that:

1. Australia must contribute to achieving a globally sustainable population.
2. our environmental impact is not determined by population numbers alone, but by the way that people live.
3. consumption patterns and levels, distribution of resources, agricultural practices for domestic consumption and export, levels and types of industrial activity, urban design and transport options determine the ecological footprint of a group of people.
4. there are complex issues involved in population policy, including:
 - women's rights;
 - unsustainable resource use; and
 - inequitable distribution of wealth and power.
5. Australia's population policy should be determined by its commitment to:
 - ecological sustainability;
 - both global and domestic social justice and equity;
 - intergenerational equity;
 - multiculturalism;
 - international human rights obligations; and
 - decent wages and conditions for all workers.
6. population policy should not be driven by economic goals or to counter the effects of an ageing population.
7. an Australian population policy must consider the geographical distribution of human settlements rather than just concentrate upon population size at the national level.
8. Australia has an obligation to accept humanitarian migration including that resulting from climate change.

Goals

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The Australian Greens want:

9. reduction of Australia's use of natural resources to a level that is sustainable and socially just.
10. recognition that use of resources in production for export is as damaging to the environment as production for domestic consumption.
11. human settlements which are:
 - designed and built to minimise environmental harm and maximise social well-being; and
 - located in areas where their ecological impact is minimised.

Measures

The Australian Greens will:

12. support, through extensive community consultation, a population policy directed towards ecological sustainability in the context of global social justice.
13. work to achieve a sustainable relationship between humans and the environment by taking action:
 - in Australia, including planning, consultation and a whole of government approach, to improve equity in consumption levels and resource and technology use; and
 - globally, to improve social and economic equity and promote programs that empower women.
14. implement the 1994 United Nations International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action as endorsed by the Australian Government, by:
 - increasing our contribution to programs that empower women and increase their access to a wide range of safe family planning options; and
 - increasing our overseas aid budget to 0.7% of GNP by 2010 as recommended by the United Nations, directed to the poorest, which often include women, with a focus on clean water and sanitation, education and high quality accessible health services, including sexual and reproductive health services.
15. ensure that Australian family planning programs, both domestically and overseas, are adequately funded to deliver services in the context of reproductive health programs which increase the power of girls and women to determine their own reproductive lives, and increase the understanding of men of their reproductive responsibilities.
16. prepare contingency plans for possible large scale humanitarian migration as a result of climate change.