

The Australian Democrats want a fair and non-discriminatory immigration program consistent with Australia's humanitarian responsibilities and environmental sustainability.

We reject racist ideology, and recognise that the heritage, customs and traditions of immigrants have enriched Australia.

But immigration numbers have massively increased to a record 278,000/year and with no consultation with the Australian people. This rate would lead to a doubling of our population to 44m by 2045. In turn this would double the demands on our health services, soil fertility, water and electricity supply, transport and housing as well as decreasing our ability to preserve our unique biodiversity and to meet climate change targets.

We cannot continue to grow our population at the behest of the development lobby, which is the prime beneficiary of such growth.

We reject the flawed argument that population growth can be sustained merely by having better urban planning.

While welcoming the creation of a Sustainable Population portfolio, we call for the expansion of the Government's population panels, the publication of their terms of reference, and for public input to be sought.

..... thinking long term on **Population & Immigration**

Our Plan

- Development of a **long-term population strategy** that determines immigration rates based on protection of the uniqueness of our land, recognition of its fragility and the need to sustain biodiversity
- consideration of our capacity to provide **critical infrastructure** meeting Australia's global humanitarian obligations
- rejection of any suggestion of race, ethnicity, sexuality or religion as criteria for entry to Australia, with demonstrably needed skills the only reason for selection.
- Real long term investment in **social, environmental and economic infrastructure** including ecologically sustainable urban and water planning, renewable energy, better public transport, health services and regional development.
- Skilled migration intake** used only as a means of temporarily overcoming genuine skill shortages, and not as a substitute for employment or training of Australian citizens.
- At least **equal employment conditions** for temporary visa holders: under no circumstances must these people be used for cheap labour
- Incentives to encourage immigrants and refugees to **settle in regional areas** but not where there are no job prospects.
- Support services**, such as interpreters and English language classes, being available where necessary.