



# Population, Sustainability & Quality of Life: what future do we want for Australia?

1:30 – 5 pm, Saturday 27 April 2019

The EcoCentre, Griffith University Nathan Campus, Brisbane

*Recent polls have found more than two-thirds of Australians don't want Australia's population to get bigger. Yet all major political parties support continuing rapid growth, with no thought for ecological limits. The public debate is dominated by vested interests peddling misinformation. **Sustainable Population Australia** invites you to hear from experts and share your views.*



## Speakers:

- **Hugh Possingham**  
Ecologist and Chief Scientist at The Nature Conservancy.  
**"Delivering outcomes for people and nature"**
- **Sue Arnold**  
Journalist and President of Australians for Animals NSW.  
**"Big Australia - a concrete desert run by corporations?"**
- **Steve McDonald**  
Town Planner & President of Redlands2030 citizen action group.  
**"Planning choices: quality of life versus economic return"**
- **Cameron Murray**  
Economist and Senate candidate for Sustainable Australia.  
**"Three Economic Myths about Ageing: Participation, immigration, and infrastructure"**
- **Crispin Hull**  
Lawyer, journalist and columnist for the Canberra Times.  
**"Racism to the bottom: meek media's population failure"**
- **Kelvin Thomson**  
Former Federal Labor MP for the seat of Wills.  
**"The political impasse – where to from here?"**

All welcome. Entry by donation. Afternoon tea provided.  
Please RSVP for catering purposes to: [qld@population.org.au](mailto:qld@population.org.au)

## Program:

1:30 – 3:00 pm. Session 1:

**Our Natural Heritage – Custodians or Conquerors?**

➤ **Hugh Possingham: "Delivering outcomes for people and nature"**

Professor Hugh Possingham is a mathematical ecologist, currently both Chief Scientist at The Nature Conservancy (TNC, USA's largest conservation organisation) and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Environmental Decisions at the University of Queensland. He is a member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists and has chaired government committees on biodiversity.

➤ **Sue Arnold: "Big Australia - a concrete desert run by corporations?"**

Sue is the founder of [Australians for Animals Inc.](#), one of Australia's oldest wildlife charities. A former Fairfax investigative journalist she has focused for the past 30 years on the marine and terrestrial environment. Her current research is focused on the significant loss of democratic rights under state or Commonwealth legal processes to ensure wildlife survival given the ramifications of Big Australia. Tweet: @koalacrisis

➤ **Steve McDonald: "Planning choices: quality of life versus economic return"**

Steve has practised as a surveyor, valuer and planner and worked on regional planning arrangements for SEQ including the region's paucity of open space (parks), and attempted to link natural resource management with statutory land use planning. Through [Redlands2030](#), he works to expose and redress developer-bias in planning decisions, and lately spearheads the community campaign against the proposed Toondah Harbour development on the RAMSAR-listed Toondah wetland.

➤ **Panel Discussion**

3:00 – 3:30 pm. Afternoon Tea

3:30 – 5:00 pm. Session 2:

**Politics and Patronage – Clarifying Muddy Waters.**

➤ **Cameron Murray: "Three Economic Myths about Ageing: Participation, immigration, and infrastructure"**

Cameron is economist specialising in property markets, environmental economics, and corruption. He is a coauthor of the book '[Game of Mates: How favours bleed the nation](#)' and a Visiting Scholar at The University of Sydney. @drcameronmurray

➤ **Crispin Hull: "Racism to the bottom: meek media's population failure"**

Crispin Hull is a former editor of The Canberra Times and has been a journalist for 45 years and continues to write a weekly column which appears in The Canberra Times, The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. He is admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the ACT Supreme Court and author of "The High Court of Australia 1903-2003" (the Law Book Company).

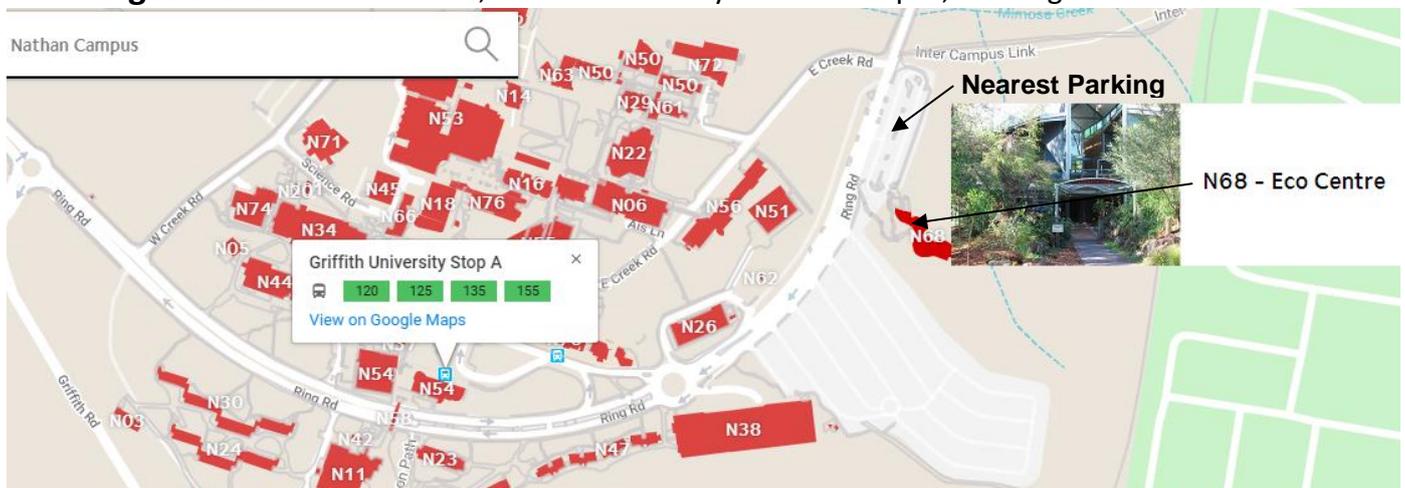
➤ **Kelvin Thomson: "The political impasse – where to from here?"**

Kelvin Thomson is a former Federal Labor MP for the seat of Wills (1996-2016), following positions as councillor and deputy mayor for the City of Coburg (1981-1988), and Victorian Legislative Assembly (1988-1996). Kelvin is now Chief of Staff for the Sustainable Australia Party's Victorian Legislative Councillor Clifford Hayes. Throughout his career he has been an outspoken advocate for the environment and for sustainable population policies.

➤ **Panel Discussion**

5:00 pm Close.

**How to get there:** The EcoCentre, Griffith University Nathan Campus, building N68.



Parking is free on weekends.

Bus 135 from Queen St Bus Station 1C 1:00 pm, or South Bank Busway Station pf2 1:04 pm arrives 1:19 pm.