



- declining biodiversity
- traffic congestion
- unaffordable housing
- climate change
- water shortages
- infrastructure overload
- loss of soil and bushland

**... all made worse
by population
growth!**

Sustainable Population Australia

SPA was formed in Canberra in 1988 by people who felt that the issue of population numbers was overlooked by many of those striving to preserve Australia's environment. We have grown to become a national organisation with branches in states and territories.

We fear the world our children will inherit will be overpopulated and too environmentally degraded to provide for everyone's basic needs.

SPA members receive four newsletters a year and twice-monthly eNews, online forums and local branch events, with many opportunities to help promote population stabilisation in political and public discourse.

Aims and objectives

- To contribute to the public awareness of the limits to Australian population growth from ecological, social and economic viewpoints.
- To promote awareness that the survival of an ecologically sustainable population depends in the long-term on its renewable resource base.
- To promote policies that will lead to the stabilisation, and then to reduction, of Australia's population by encouraging low fertility and low migration.
- To promote urban and rural life-styles and practices that are in harmony with the realities of the Australian environment, its resource base and its biodiversity.
- To advocate low immigration rates while rejecting any selection of immigrants based on race.
- To promote policies that will lead to stabilisation, and then reduction, of global population.

Further Information

SPA Inc. (National Office)
PO Box 85,
WEST DEAKIN, ACT 2600
Phone: 0434 962 305
E-Mail: info@population.org.au
Web: population.org.au

Sustainable Population Australia



*"With more people and fewer resources,
Mother Earth is struggling to survive."*

Bindi Irwin – SPA Youth Ambassador

**Join us to create a
sustainable future**





Sir David Attenborough

“I’ve never seen a problem that wouldn’t be easier to solve with fewer people, or harder, and ultimately impossible, with more.”

Dick Smith

“The big decision about a population increase is, ‘what’s in it for most Australians?’ I believe the answer is ‘less and less’.”



SPA is honoured to have five eminent Australians as patrons:

- Dr Paul Collins
- The Hon. Bob Carr
- Professor Tim Flannery
- Em Professor Ian Lowe
- Dr Katharine Betts
- and Bindi Irwin as Youth Ambassador

The little big country

Australia is comparable in area to the United States but with a small-country population. Some say this means we are underpopulated. However, we have very little good agricultural land, our soils are generally thin and poor, and our climate is variable.

Over 230 years, European settlement has inflicted huge damage on this land, with river systems like the Murray-Darling driven beyond their limits during prolonged droughts. Many animal and plant species have been lost, salinity has rendered land unusable, and fish stocks depleted.

All this damage has been done by a population that has now grown to over 25 million – and yet our current growth rate will see us doubling our numbers in less than 50 years! SPA believes further population growth is unjustifiable while our *State of the Environment* reports are showing continual decline of most indicators. Indeed, as peak oil and climate change loom, population stabilisation becomes increasingly urgent.

A healthy environment underpins the economy and the social welfare of its people. The Productivity Commission has shown that increased immigration enriches employers, developers and migrants, but not most Australians. They are worse off because of lower wages, costlier housing, increased congestion and environmental damage.

Australia grows by nearly 400,000 people a year; 60 per cent from net overseas migration and 40 per cent from natural increase. While SPA supports the maintenance and even enlargement of the humanitarian program, we believe the skilled component of immigration should be cut significantly and all incentives for having large families removed.



Become a member / make a donation

Annual subscription: Individual \$40 (concession \$25); Organisation \$40.

You may also join on-line at www.population.org.au/join

Declaration: *I have read and agree with the Aims & Objectives of SPA and wish to become a member.*

Signature: Date:

Title: Name:

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I enclose: One year’s membership subscription \$

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