



## Did you know?

- The following are accepted as scientific fact:
  - Ecosystems provide life-support for humans.
  - Ecosystems are being destroyed and degraded.
  - Degradation is a function of population size and per capita consumption — *both are increasing!*
- The 2001 State of the Environment Report named land clearing the single biggest threat to wildlife in Australia. In the last 50 years, Australia cleared as much land as in the 150 years before 1945.
- In Aug 2002, The Australia Institute found that Australia's greenhouse gas emissions per capita (which they also found are directly linked to population growth) are the highest in the world.
- Australian family sizes are NOT small by Western standards, and SPA is concerned at growing attempts to induce Australian women to have more children. Our fertility rate has remained relatively constant for the last seven years.
- Sprawl and/or enforced urban “consolidation” (intensification) is the inevitable result of population growth — look at Sydney.
- Australia's population is increasing by 1 million every four years, with net overseas migration responsible for just over half of the increase.
- Business lobby groups, including the housing, property development industries, want an increase in immigration and fertility rates, but they have a clear vested interest in higher population growth. On the other hand, low income earners suffer when increased demand pushes up the price of housing.
- SPA lobbies for population stabilisation at the earliest possible time, at the lowest possible level.

**Traffic congestion ...**  
**Unaffordable housing ...**  
**Water shortages ...**  
**Infrastructure overload ...**

## All made worse by Population Growth!

### Defence

Given today's advanced military weapons, it is grossly simplistic to equate a nation's military power with its number of foot soldiers. National security is dependent on a nation's technological development, education, health care, justice system, and its ability to balance its population, resources and environmental quality.

### Economy

Population growth benefits big business interests, since it means more development. However, eventually growth increases the tax burden on communities. The revenue brought in by the new growth is outweighed by the cost it creates in infrastructure. Meanwhile school overcrowding, hospital waiting lists and pollution rises.

### Ageing

The Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) has found that levels of annual net migration above 80,000 are ineffective in preventing the population from ageing. Prof. Peter McDonald and Rebecca Kippen from the Australian National University have concluded: “Those who wish to argue for a higher level of immigration must base their argument on any benefits of a larger population, not upon the illusory ‘younging power’ of high immigration.”

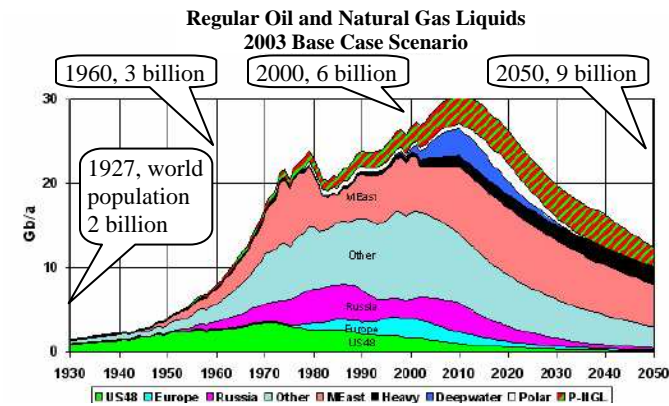
### Further Information

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## Getting comfortable

Japan's 2004 population of 127.8 million will be a more comfortable 109.7 million by 2050, according to United Nations' *State of World Population, 2004*, at which level the Japanese will enjoy a high standard of living and quality of life. The population of the 31 countries that make up Europe, will decline by 93.7 million by 2050.

## Oil depletion



The graph above shows that the world's oil and gas production is around its peak, but population is still rising. Modern farming techniques — which rely heavily on oil and gas for fertiliser, weed and pest control, for planting, harvesting and transport — have artificially boosted human carrying capacity in all countries. Australia's no exception!

## Global warming

The International Panel on Climate Change has determined that 9 billion tonnes/year is the maximum total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions consistent with achieving a stable atmosphere. By 2050, there'll be 9 billion people on Earth — an allowance of just 1 tonne per person. Europeans today produce 10 Tonnes/per person, significantly less than Australians. The more people, the harder the Climate Change problem becomes.

