



The most populous states starkly demonstrate the economic problem. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in the 2008-09 financial year Victoria imported \$69.7 billion in goods and services but produced only \$33.1 billion in exports. In the same year New South Wales imported \$100.8 billion in goods and services and produced only \$60.4 billion in exports. By contrast, Western Australia produced \$92.1 billion in exports and imported \$42.5 billion in goods and services.⁴ This demonstrates Australia's economic reliance on minerals and energy reserves. Once they have been exhausted, what will our children (including the children of migrant Australians) export to keep Australia in the first world?

Australia has recently run very high net overseas migration (NOM) of up to around 300,000 per annum. NOM is the major factor in Australia's current unsustainable population growth. Australia should rapidly implement a balanced (or zero net) migration program – with immigration roughly equalling emigration. This, along with Australia's near replacement rate fertility will allow Australia to stabilise its population at between 23-26 million through until 2050 (and beyond).

The Stable Population Party supports the continuation of Australia's high per capita refugee intake of 13,750 per annum, within the immigration quota. We also reject selection of immigrants based on race or religion.

Population stabilisation is completely consistent with Australia's diversity, multiracialism and multiculturalism. Only a sustainable approach to population can allow Australia to retain its quality of life. This must be the first priority of a responsible Federal Government.

The Stable Population Party's proposal for a balanced migration will better allow Australia to continue its rich history in migration (and free choice on family size) into the long term. It will also allow us to focus on higher quality assistance programs for new migrants and refugees. This will in turn help to maximise social inclusion, settlement and participation, and national productive capacity as per your terms of reference.

Kind regards

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⁴ <http://dfat.gov.au/publications/stats-pubs/downloads/australia-trade-by-state-and-territory-2008-09.pdf>
(see **State and Territory trade overview - P3**)