

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

This petition of concerned Victorian citizens draws the attention of the House to the following: Australia's population grows rapidly at an annual rate of 1.8%

Immigration accounts for 60% of this high population growth which adversely affects the environment, places pressure on services and infrastructure and sets Australia towards a future very high population.

We note that:

Victoria's population at 1.8% growth will reach 11 million people by 2050, with 8 million in Melbourne.

Successive Victorian governments have been unable to keep pace with required infrastructure.

Unpopular residential towers and road tunnels are unsustainable attempts to deal with growth.

Severe traffic congestion is widespread.

Public transport is inadequate for new residential communities on Melbourne's fringe.

Unemployment, unaffordable housing and social disadvantage are increasing.

Hospital services are at their limit and ambulance queues and delays are constant.

Population pressures adversely affect coastal areas, biodiversity, and waterways in Victoria.

Valuable food growing areas are being built upon. A high population trajectory is particularly dangerous given that climate change which has already affected Victoria creates additional unknown factors regarding population carrying capacity. It means we must take a precautionary approach to population growth.

We therefore

ask the House to take urgent action to reduce net overseas immigration to a maximum of 70,000-90,000 p.a. including the current quota of 20,000 refugees as a starting point in stabilising Victoria's, and Australia's, population later this century.