



Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

Population impact submission - Inquiry into State government insurance and flood levy

The Stable Population Party was formed in 2010 to give all Australian communities choice on population and quality of life. The party was registered by the Australian Electoral Commission in September 2010 and will be standing candidates in Queensland in future federal elections and by-elections.

We make our submission to the Senate inquiry noting the following terms of reference section:
1 (d) any related matters.

Australia's major economic, environmental and social problems are either caused or exacerbated by population growth. The Queensland flood crisis and subsequent cost to taxpayers is no exception.

First, it is important to understand that population growth pressure in South East Queensland has led to more housing being built on low-lying and flood-prone land. This increases the clean up and rebuilding costs, meaning a far higher cost for taxpayers - including flood levies - per natural disaster.

More urban development can also lead to a wider, higher and longer flood. As we pave over porous soil with more concrete and bitumen, opportunities for water to seep into the ground diminish.

Population growth and flood risk are also combining to place large price premiums on higher ground housing, meaning that many families cannot easily afford to live outside of the flood zone.

To add insult to injury, at a time of enormous population growth pressures in South East Queensland, various population growth lobbyists are calling for even more skilled migrants to move into the flood-prone areas in order to provide 'skilled labour' to rebuild. Such voices include big bank 'chief economists', who coincidentally stand to profit most from a larger customer market for housing. But would a further rush of migrants help us to clean up and re-house people after the floods - or just add to the problem?

More people would in fact greatly exacerbate the problems faced by residents. It would put further pressure on already overloaded infrastructure, increase the already high cost of housing including rents for displaced families, impose greater adverse impacts on the natural and built local environments and exacerbate the shortage of construction skills - new people must also be accommodated with new housing!



Recent experience should teach us the folly of letting population pressures lead us to build on flood-prone areas - and increasing our population in the first place.

The Queensland flood crisis helps demonstrate that you can't properly resolve Australia's major problems until you resolve the everything issue – population.

We ask that the Senate committee recommends a stable population for South East Queensland and Australia so that future costs of natural disasters can be minimised, including the impact of flood levies on the Australian taxpayer as per your terms of reference.

Regards

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