

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Committee, Migration \(REPS\)](#)  
**Subject:** Terms of Reference - Senate Inquiry into Migration  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 February 2023 11:24:31 AM

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Hello,

I wish to object strongly to the terms of reference of the inquiry “Migration: Pathway to Nation-Building” being conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Migration.

The inquiry title is foolish. Do the Senators imagine that Australia is an “unbuilt” nation? We have cleared 90% of our forests and bushland already, and sucked the water out of most of our rivers. We may need better infrastructure, but we cannot keep up with the increasing demands for this if we keep adding to our population. It is a case of the dog chasing its tail. If migration is a pathway, how long is this pathway? Will we ever get there?

The loaded wording of the second term of reference is particularly obnoxious. Migration causes population growth and this makes Australia less sustainable, not more sustainable. Vibrant communities are a function of the quality of the social and economic life of our towns and cities, not their size. Vast suburbs filled with isolated families are not vibrant places. But this term assumes this view and does not allow Senators to have alternative views.

The committee seems to be hostage to the corporate view that the only way forward is by the “growth at any cost” path. Senators should wander down to the electorate and seek answers from ordinary people struggling to keep a job and find a house, and to the natural spaces in Australia being bulldozed for new developments.

Yours,  
Gordon Payne

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