



Ecological Sustainability - Social Justice - Peace and Non-violence - Grassroots Democracy

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand FEDERAL ELECTION 2010

Adoption and implementation of "Recommendation 24 of the Report of the Independent Review of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999", as detailed in Chapter 7. The Recommendation identifies the need to develop an industry Code of Conduct for environmental practitioners supplying information for the purposes of the environmental impact assessment and approval regime under the Act. The Institute wishes to provide unequivocal support for this recommendation and process.

The Greens are supportive of recommendation 24 of the Hawke review. Measures that improve the quality of information submitted for Environmental Impact Assessments under the EPBC Act can only lead to better environmental outcomes. The Greens agree with many of the Hawke Review's recommendations and look forward to seeing them implemented.

We seek bipartisan support for a robust, detailed and strategic Resource Assessment process in order to evaluate and determine an optimum carrying capacity for a sustainable population level in Australia. Without the detailed information provide in a strategic resource assessment of Australia we have no accurate means of defining a sustainable population.

The Greens strongly support the need for a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of Australia's population into the future to ensure population size and growth is consistent with a range of sustainability issues. Senator Brown moved for an independent national inquiry into Australia's population to 2050 to report by 1 July 2011 in March this year which was voted down by both the big parties: The motion is below:

1. That the Senate notes that:
 - a) Global population is expected to grow to 6.8 billion people now to 9.2 billion in 2050;
 - b) Australia's population size and capacity to sustain population growth at the current rate is an issue of national significance that requires a national population policy and strategic plan as a matter of urgency;
 - c) As a wealthy nation, Australia is disproportionately able to influence and slow global population growth; and
 - d) There is growing public debate about the question of population size.
2. The Senate calls on the Prime Minister to establish an independent National Inquiry into Australia's Population to 2050. The inquiry to report by 1 July 2011.
3. In establishing the Inquiry that:

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Authorised by Ebony Bennett, Australian Greens, Canberra

- a) The Chair and panel of the National Inquiry be appointed with cross party support to ensure independence;
- b) Sufficient funds are allocated to ensure that the Inquiry holds public hearings in all capital cities and major regional centres across Australia; and
- c) The terms of reference for the Inquiry to include but not be limited to:
 - i. The impact on Australia of the growing global population and how best Australia may affect it;
 - ii. The development of plan for a population that can be best supported in Australia within and then beyond the next forty years, taking into account technology options, infrastructure, patterns of resource use and quality of life considerations;
 - iii. The environmental, social and economic sustainability of Australia's population in the short, medium and long term;
 - iv. The value of a whole of government approach to population incorporating consideration of immigration and family policies; and
 - v. Recommendations of national policy options in relation to population, including taking into account regional and local perspectives; and
 - vi. Any related matters

We seek the support and commitment from the future Australian Government to help provide the resources to educate and disseminate Climate Change information to environmental practitioners required to work and deliver outcomes in this space, both in terms of climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation.

The Greens consider that a critical function of the Commonwealth Government is to support basic and applied research and to use this information to increase the awareness of the community about cost effective emissions mitigation options and ways to adapt to inevitable climate change impacts. This should include technical and specialist information developed by , for example, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the CSIRO, and the Bureau of Meteorology for use by private and government environmental practitioners. Examples of this sort of information include climate change projections, sea-level rise projections and coastal risk mapping, detailed renewable energy resource maps, assessments of crop performance, the refinement of energy efficiency rating tools and so on.

The Greens believe that responding to climate change is one of the most pressing tasks facing the Government and can provide an assurance that we will ensure that environmental practitioners are provided the essential information that they need to effectively and efficiently help find and implement solutions.

13 August 2010

Australian Greens

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