



THE HON ANTHONY BYRNE MP
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
TO THE PRIME MINISTER
CANBERRA

Reference: C10/13127

Mr Dick Smith AO
PO Box 418
TERREY HILLS NSW 2084

23 APR 2010

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for your letter of 26 February 2010 regarding your concerns about Australia's future population growth. I apologise for the delay in replying. The Prime Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The point that you make in your letter is an important one - there are immense challenges associated with a growing population, particularly in the area of sustainability and climate change.

To understand how future population dynamics will affect Australia is no easy task. Thus, in response to this challenge, the Prime Minister has appointed the Hon Tony Burke MP as the new Minister for Population. This position has been created to help guide the development of policies required to meet Australia's future population.

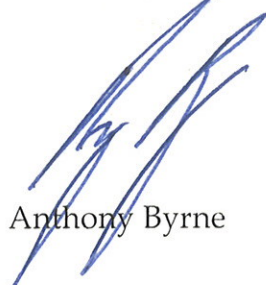
Mr Burke's initial task will be to develop Australia's first comprehensive Population Strategy. In his new role, Mr Burke will consider the likely trajectory of population growth and the challenges and opportunities this will create. Mr Burke will also be tasked with developing the cross government frameworks that will be required to make the most of the opportunities, and minimise the risks, associated with population growth.

Australia's first Population Strategy will consider the social and economic infrastructure Australia will need to support a growing population, including the roads, housing and service delivery network. The strategy will seek to address the challenges associated with population growth, including the impact on the environment, water and urban congestion.

The new population strategy will also consider, as an early priority, the opportunities a growing population will create for economic growth and to further develop and grow Australia's regional towns and communities. The policy will bring a whole-of-government perspective drawing on input from all portfolios, including local and state governments. This Government is committed to meeting the long-term challenges of population growth, population ageing and climate change.

A copy of your letter has been provided to Mr Burke for his information. Thank you again for bringing your views to the Prime Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Byrne