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RUPERT MURDOCH, A.C.
CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Dick Smith
PO Box 418
Terrey Hills, NSW. 2084
Transmitted via fax to: 61 2 9486 3482

Dear Dick:

I am afraid that I cannot get to Australia to take part in your documentary or studio discussion. I would have enjoyed it as it would have made me think more about the issues.

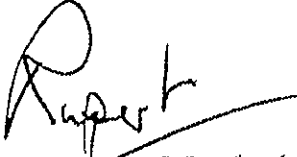
The fact is the population of the world, according to most demographers, is going to level out later this century at 9 million people. Like you, I don't see Australia supporting 100 million, but who knows? However, I do think we could support many more than the current number. Of course we need a national water policy and a great deal more desalination. We have a rich country with huge natural resources and it is very important to invest returns from this in the right places, namely infrastructure and education.

We have a wonderful way of life in most of the country and we need to preserve this and be ready to support it with high technology industries long before the natural resources run out.

We have to be open but selective about immigration, something the United States is making a terrible mess of at the moment.

I think Australia would be a terrible loser if it just puts up a wall and follows a no-growth policy. It could really be a form of isolationism which would leave us behind both physically and intellectually.

With best wishes,


Rupert Murdoch