

Population bomb

IT is curious the Editorial "Attracting investment" (*Mercury*, November 30) claims that population growth will lead to better levels of service. It is self-defeating to try

to house, transport and manage an ever-bigger population. Where does it end?

Since 2000 when Australia's population was 19 million, it has grown to 24 million. We've added another Melbourne, but not the necessary infrastructure.

As a result, our cities suffer with overcrowding, clogged roads, a crumbling health system, overloaded public transport, unaffordable housing and urban sprawl. The common thread is too many people yet the main cause, population growth, is not questioned.

Australia's high non-refugee immigration intake is about 200,000 per year. Liberal and Labor parties, supported by Greens, have tripled immigration from the long-term average of 70,000 per annum without consulting the Australian people. Australia's population growth is unsustainable, unaffordable, undemocratic and eroding quality of life.

Tasmania's economy should grow due to improvements in productivity, innovation, skills, education, workforce participation, technology and entrepreneurship, not population and debt.

Merc 2 Dec '16

Susan Bowes
Lindisfarne