

Rapid growth not sustainable

WELL said, Tom Elliott (“Now time to reduce immigration”, Talking Point, February 20). It’s high time Australians had a conversation about how big we want this country to be.

We are on target for 40 million by 2050. Our cities are groaning as infrastructure struggles to cope, bushland and arable land is turned into housing, and amenity is lost with higher density and more traffic.

Australia’s immigration intake was increased by stealth first under the Howard Government, and continues with the support of Labor and the Greens. There was never any community consultation on the issue or any national discussion. While our left hand determinedly adds the population of Canberra nearly every year, our right hand is secretly bribing people smugglers to keep out a handful of refugees.

The Australian Academy of Science advised two decades ago that after 23 million our quality of life reduces, due to the depletion of finite and non-renewable resources, and this does not factor in climate change. The debate needs to move away from the Cory Bernardis and Pauline Hansons and into the issue of sustainability. Sustainable Australia is the only party providing a centrist, mainstream alternative committed to ending Australia’s unsustainable rapid population growth.

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PRESSURES: Suburban sprawl in Sydney.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES