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Title:
Population and Ecological Goals for Spaceship Earth.

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Abstract:
Since European settlement, Australia has been widely perceived as a huge, empty country with vast resources to exploit. National goals of economic and population growth were unquestioned. Unfortunately, these forms of growth are contributing to rapid rates of environmental change that threaten our life-supporting ecological systems. Consequently, it is both necessary and urgent to pursue new goals to ensure the quality survival of human populations indefinitely. These goals would centre on sustaining ecological health, a necessary precondition for sustained economic and social health. Useful strategies involve reducing the per capita ecological impact of rich countries and stabilising or reducing population sizes to sustainable levels everywhere. Although Australia has stated goals of ecological sustainability, they are not being achieved, a situation worsened by our rapid rate of population growth.