

**Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc
Media Release**

Monday 3rd of May, 2010

Western Sydney Population Forum - Sunday May 30

Western Sydney Conservation Alliance Inc (WSCA) is organising a free public forum at the St Marys Band Club, Sunday May 30, 1pm to allow members of the public to learn more about the subject of Australia's population growth. Australia's population growth rate will be a key issue in the federal election to be conducted later this year.

"The debate over Australia's population has escalated since Prime Minister Rudd publicly supported a Treasury report that predicted Australia's population would hit 36 million by 2050. Since those comments by Kevin Rudd there has been a public backlash against his 'Big Australia' with a recent poll indicating 7 out of 10 Australians oppose Population Growth" said Geoff Brown of WSCA

Confirmed speakers at the event include Kelvin Thomson the outspoken ALP backbencher from Victoria and Mark O'Connor the co-author of Overloading Australia.

Kelvin Thomson is at odds with Labors immigration policy and is calling for cuts to Australia's record immigration rate. He claims that unless we stabilise our population that 'we are sleepwalking into an environmental disaster'. Mark O'Connor's is an expert on population matters and his latest book 'blows the whistle on the population-foolish policies' of successive governments

'We have also invited the ALP and the Liberals to speak at the forum to present their population policies and directions that they will take to the next election. Invites have been sent to Tony Burke the new Federal Population Minister and to Scott Morrison the Shadow Immigration Minister. We have asked that if they cannot attend that they nominate another senior politician to represent their parties.'

"Western Sydney will face enormous impacts if Sydney is to grow to over 7 million. Western Sydney will absorb the bulk of this new population and we firmly believe that this population growth will come at the expense of our natural environment and our quality of life. The signs are already there that we cannot cope with our current population with failing infrastructure, the collapse and devastation of the natural environment and the erosion of the quality of life enjoyed by generations of Australians. If people want to preserve what we have now then they must draw a line in the sand, act urgently and decisively and let their politicians know that enough is enough. This forum will not only allow people the opportunity to learn more about the threats of a Big Australia but also, by their presence at the event, will send a clear message to the government and opposition of their concern."

"More details about this event and how people can get involved in opposing population growth in Western Sydney can be found at www.wsca.org.au "

Further comment Geoff Brown, President, WSCA, on 0431 222602 or Wayne Olling, Vice-President, WSCA, on 9621 2105.

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/chancellery/mediacentre/publications/Betts%5BFinal%5D.pdf>
<http://www.kelvinthomson.com.au/>
<http://www.australianpoet.com/overloading.html>