Does New Zealand need a Population Policy?
-and if so, what should it be?

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What is a ‘Population Policy’?

- Population Policy = specific strategies (laws, regulations, administrative programs, procedures) for achieving or influencing population size and/or rate of growth
  - Formally articulated objectives and the means for achieving them
- Westerners tend not to like them.. while being happy to impose on developing countries
- However – most policies (and non-policies) have demographic impacts
  - Therefore policies don’t need to be ‘population’
Key Issue #1: How will NZ’s future growth be shared?

Key Issue #2: Ageing-driven growth is not the same as youth-driven growth

New Zealand: Projected change by age (%)

- 2011-2021 (8.9%)
- 2011-2031 (17.9%)

New Zealand is part of a MUCH bigger picture.. (where our skilled migrants come from)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDCs (58)</th>
<th>65+ Years</th>
<th>All other age groups combined</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medium Series</td>
<td>2011-2021</td>
<td>2011-2031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2.9%)</td>
<td>(4.6%)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1.3%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
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<td>(+98 million)</td>
<td>(-41 million)</td>
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Key Issue #3: 2/3 of ALL growth 2011-2031 will be at 65+ years

Subnationally- all dark red TA’s have more than 100 per cent of ‘growth’ at 65+ years; all are projected to experience overall decline at 0-64 years

- 1996-2011 32 TAs (48%)
- 2011-2031 56 TAs (84%)

Issue #4: 1/3 TAs already in arguably permanent decline

This matters a lot to those who own houses, businesses, employ people, have to plan for services..

It matters to local councils

It matters to rate-payers

Ultimately it matters to the whole country
Issue #5: Migration does not resolve population ageing

With same birth rate and life expectancy*

- Zero Migration (5.1m, 28.3% 65+ years)
- Medium (6m, 25.8% 65+ years)
- V High Migration (7m, 24.5% 65+ years)

*Stats NZ: TFR 1.9 by 2031; Life Expectancy 88.1 (M), 90.5 (F) in 2061
Issue #6: Who will work on/buy the farms?

1996 (41,298)

- Male
- Female

- 65+ years: 25.1%

2006 (38,634)

- Male
- Female

- 55+ years: 36.5%
Issue #7: Who will buy the houses?

Buller District 2011
(2031 Unshaded)

Decumulators:Accumulators 3.4 to 7.6 per 10
What might make a real population policy?

• Support ALL parents – parenting work is work
  – Child Care availability is critical for parents to do other work (the reproduction of the species is no longer a given)
  – Children of Sole Parents are very much our future
  – Māori children = 25-33% future workforce

• EXPLICITLY value ALL young people – our last large cohort (the recent blip) is already born

• Ensure ALL young New Zealanders have some form of training and are nurtured into a job
  – Subsidise / Write-Off Student Loans - OUR future depends on their investment
What might make a *real* population policy? *cont.*

- Ensure that ALL who want to work, can do so
  - Age-Management Planning seriously overdue
  - Institute ‘Work-Ability’ frameworks
- Don’t see regional population decline as a ‘personal trouble’ for the particular council
  - National (and global) *issues* need collective responses
  - Auckland’s gains come at the expense of ‘The Rest’
- Encourage more even population distribution
• Thankyou

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