

Media Release

MARGARET FITZHERBERT MLC

Shadow Assistant Minister to the Leader
Shadow Assistant Minister for Health
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Victoria needs a plan for population and decentralisation

Reports today that Melbourne's west will grow by the equivalent of "two Canberra's" confirms the urgent need to plan for population growth.

LeadWest's report predicts that by 2050 western Melbourne's population will increase to 1.8 million.

That is why the Liberal Nationals have commissioned the [Victorian Population Policy Taskforce](#) to develop a plan to ease the squeeze on our cities and state.

Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show Victoria's annual population growth is at a record high of 147,000.

Melbourne's population growth for this period is around 130,000.

Comments attributed to Chair of the Victorian Population Policy Taskforce, Margaret Fitzherbert:

"We need to ease the population growth squeeze in Melbourne.

"The biggest challenge Victoria faces today is managing population growth and how that creates new jobs and protects the way we live.

"Victoria's population has grown by over 400,000 since Daniel Andrews was elected but he still doesn't have a plan to decentralise our population.

"Victoria may be getting bigger but only the Liberal Nationals will ensure that our state will be a better place to live for all Victorians.

"The Liberal Nationals see population growth as an opportunity not a burden. This is about jobs, infrastructure and the way we live."

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