

Ignoring population

WHILE Jacqui Lambie is to be applauded for seeking solutions to our housing inflation crisis, she is ignoring the root cause. Discussions rarely mention demand pressures caused by rapid population growth driven largely by high net immigration. Along with investor tax concessions and foreign buyers, our record annual immigration program of more than 200,000 puts enormous pressure on prices. It is the single biggest driver of housing demand. It must be included in the conversation on affordability — and lowered back to the sensible, long-term average of 70,000 a year. Only the Sustainable Australia Party recognises a stable population will allow housing affordability. All three major parties support a big Australia, with population on track to reach 40 million within a few decades. While we resist real action on population, it makes every one of the problems we face harder to resolve. Hobart has lost its title of most affordable capital city. What else are we prepared to lose?

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