

Never asked

ACCORDING to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Tasmania has had more deaths than births for the first time on record. So it is curious to claim our population is growing because people are remaining in the state (Talking Point, *Mercury*, March 22) Our population is swelling due to overseas migration, and folk from the big island who are driven out by overcrowding, soaring property prices and loss of quality of life.

The article claims that population growth can be a good thing but fails to enlighten us of the benefits. For most of us it means increased travel times, longer hospital waiting queues, loss of amenity and more pressure on open space, and has sadly exacerbated the housing crisis.

It is self-defeating to try to house, transport and manage an ever-bigger population, yet this is what we are expected to suffer and is dismissed as growing pains. We've failed abysmally in planning for a big Tasmania. We were never asked. It's time to plan for a sustainable Tasmania that is better, not bigger.

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