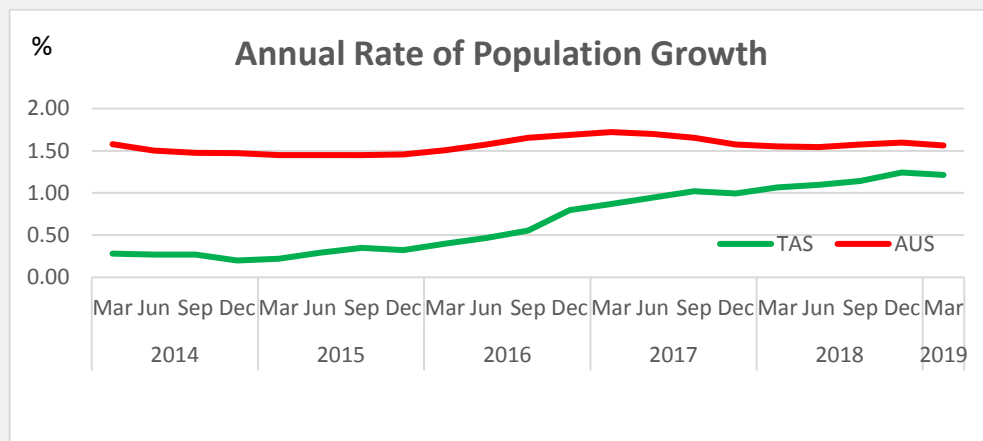


Date: 24 September 2019

**Population**  
**The member for Clark**

**Population**

The latest data from the ABS shows that Tasmania's population is now estimated to be 535,000. Growth in the previous quarter stood at 1.2% pa, compared with the Australian figure of 1.5% pa. The figure below shows the rate of population growth over the last 6 years.



The government boasted that that they required a growth rate of only 0.66% pa to reach their target of 650,000 by 2050. The Opposition poo-pooed the comment stating that the government was way off target and would require a much higher growth rate to achieve their aim.

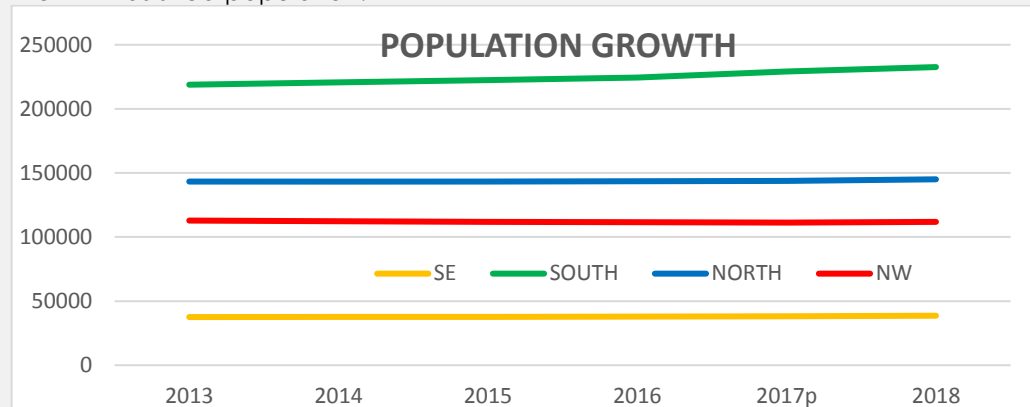
Now, in its simplest form, a growth of 115,000 over 30 years would equate to around 4000 increase per year, or around 0.7% increase on current numbers. The following table is based on a slightly more complex formula (compound interest) and shows the government to be right and the Opposition to be wrong.

| Present | Projected | By Year | Annual Rate of Increase |
|---------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| 535,000 | 650,000   | 2050    | 0.66%                   |
| 535,000 | 765,000   | 2050    | 1.20%                   |
| 535,000 | 650,000   | 2035    | 1.20%                   |
| 535,000 | 836,000   | 2050    | 1.50%                   |

If the current annual growth rate of 1.2% was maintained, we would reach the target of 650,000 by the year 2035 (row 3), and by 2050 it would be 765,000 (row 2). And if we maintained the Australian average figure of 1.5%, we would be 835,000 in number by 2050.

However, as the figure above shows, our rate of growth is also increasing. True, it is starting from a low base, but it is rapidly approaching the national growth rate. Which suggests that Tasmania is becoming a destination of choice.

However, the growth is not even across the state. As the figure and table below shows, growth has been concentrated in the south. In fact, over the last 6 years the NW has shed population.



|               | SE    | SOUTH  | NORTH  | NW     |
|---------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| <b>2013</b>   | 37554 | 218844 | 143265 | 112857 |
| <b>2018</b>   | 38608 | 232606 | 145033 | 111954 |
| <b>change</b> | 1054  | 13762  | 1768   | -903   |

As this newsletter has been saying for quite some time now, setting a target is glib - providing the wherewithall is the name of the game, and these figures are a call to action. Without the provision of appropriate infrastructure, the south is becoming clogged, while the north and north west are crying out for action to stimulate their local economies.

So while the government is congratulating itself on meeting its growth targets, it now needs to demonstrate it has a capacity to properly manage that growth – and for the northern part of the state the lack of growth.

### **The new member for Clark**

The latest addition to the parliament has boasted that she will be engaged in a contest of ideas. And a recent article in the local paper left the reader in no doubt as to her own sense of self-worth in chanting this mantra.

In particular, her concern for job creation is laudable, but road making, as she continually prosecutes the case, is not the employer it was in her grand uncle's day. She might, though, like to visit the government's infrastructure plan, and consider her position on the redevelopment of the Bridgewater bridge as a starting point.

As much as she says that she wishes this contest of ideas, parliament is a contest of numbers, and she would understand that at this time her vote could play a significant part in the government's ongoing fortunes. She actually acknowledges that when she says that she will be "nipping at the heels of the government".

So, it's a numbers game. Expect some horse trading any time soon. One hopes her hubris can be kept in the back pocket when the horse trading commences.