ujące the burden of an ugly business on your shoulders.

It’s unfair, selfish and lazy for any government to ignore its people simply for temporary profit, especially when those short-term gains will inevitably hurt the long-term wellbeing of its people. Speak out against this trade and ask the government to be accountable to the people. One person can make a difference! The louder you are, the more they will be forced to listen.

Mr Chris DeRose is president and founder of Last Chance for Animals. Mr DeRose has spent more than 40 years advocating for people with disabilities, children and animals. He is also a writer, speaker and investigator.

A mini baby boom is bulging through Tasmania’s ageing population. It is in our interests that they are well educated, writes demographer Natalie Gillard

At the 2004 Budget, Australians were encouraged by then treasurer Peter Costello to go forth and multiply: “One for the father, one for the mother, and one for the country.”

The subsequent increase in birth numbers which began to break the 1971 peak in the mid 1990s, peaked in 2005 and then tapered off. The most likely reason for this was the economic downturn which began in 2008.

However, with the recent economic recovery, it is now possible that birth numbers may increase again over the next few years. Indeed, the first signs are already appearing.

While the birth rates have increased, the overall population has not.

As the number of people in the country continues to increase, so too does the number of people in the workforce. The result is that there are more people of working age in the world that “Australia has become the world’s best place to live for children”. That is, if you are a child.

The current population growth rate is more likely to be the combined result of the two factors outlined above. That is, the increase in birth numbers and the decrease in death numbers.

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