



Sustainable Population Australia

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Ms Joanne Chong, Water Reform Commissioner
Productivity Commission Canberra Office
GPO Box 1428
Canberra City ACT 2601 Australia

8 May 2026

Dear Ms Chong

RE: Submission to the National Water Reform 2026 Inquiry

In relation to the National Water Reform 2026 inquiry, Sustainable Population Australia draws your attention to our discussion paper, *Big Thirsty Australia*, enclosed.

We apologise that this will not arrive within your call for submissions. We have only just learned of the inquiry and note that the window for submissions was very short. We hope you can still accept this contribution.

The report can also be accessed online here:

<https://population.org.au/discussion-papers/water/>

This report emphasises that Australia's rapid population growth is generating water security issues for many cities and towns, and intensifying competition between rural, industrial and domestic water users. Solutions will be increasingly costly, environmentally impactful and vulnerable to disruption as our population continues to grow.

We trust that the Inquiry will identify population growth not merely as a context affecting trends in water access but, more importantly, a policy option for the Federal government. Only by ending Australia's population growth, through immigration reduction, can we ensure water security in the long term.

Yours sincerely

Peter Strachan
National President
Sustainable Population Australia