

We The People
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We the People 334 A House of Cards



Good Day to you. Usually it's the family home that represents the biggest purchase in our lives. Traditionally, this has been a block of land with a free standing home and a back yard. This is not to say that a unit or a duplex is not a family home but the traditional structure is iconic and forms a part of our society's values and national memory. The value of the family home is far more than just bricks and mortar. It's a most worthwhile goal to own your own home yet it is becoming more difficult. For young people the financial challenge is getting a foot in the door to purchase their first home. Who would have thought we would ever see the median price of a home on the Gold Coast at \$655,000 yet wages are stagnant unless you are paid by the government. For people to be able to afford the average Gold Coast mortgage repayment on \$600,000 they must find at least \$3,300 dollars each month. Quite a challenge and an impossible one for younger folk. The problem is that people still have to live somewhere and as the real estate market rises the rental market sees more demand and rents rise and the debt trap is set. So the great Australian dream becomes the impossible dream and we as a country lose because the next generation must deal with less room to enjoy life and far lower quality of life by any measure. To make my point just drive on the M1 or the '**great long car park**' as it's now called and this is apparently the State's and the Council's method of determining progress when in reality, it's regress.

In my view this is being driven to a large extent by huge unsustainable immigration numbers forcing demand ever higher with no advantage to anyone. So many problems are being created with a high population and all because of some notional association with GDP growth which is an illusion and a con. This is another prime reason to reduce immigration numbers. If we ultimately realise Kevin Rudd's nonsensical "**big Australia**" then we all lose and home ownership becomes more elusive and quality of life declines. Australian identity Dick Smith is now a member of the Sustainable Australia Party which proclaims the line, "**Better not Bigger**" and that says it all.

When the average family or person cannot afford the average home, then the market will fall in line with the laws of supply and demand. This is exactly what's happening now. Falling house prices are a symptom and not the real problem. They are a symptom of poor planning and over population and far too much dependence on one sector. As prices fall more people can realise home ownership but the reciprocal is that the equity in the family home falls. So now we have a declining real estate market in line with the predictions of Professor Steven Keen and that's not necessarily a bad thing. As a whole, the Australian economy has grown through a **property bubble, inflating on top of a mining bubble, built on top of a commodities bubble, driven by a China bubble.** Unfortunately for Australia, that "lucky" free ride is just about to end. Put simply, lack of foresight and incompetent governments have failed to plan over the last few decades and now we have a country relying on the building and real estate industry and nowhere more apparent than the Gold Coast. More cranes on the sky line is more proof **we have built a house of cards** and the more elusive the ownership of a family home, to the detriment of society.

Why should we as Australians have to deal with incompetent governance. Well, put simply it's because the majority of Australians don't really know who they are voting for so in this democracy **we the people** reap what we sow. For goodness sake, when the federal election comes along think about your vote and the Gold Coast you want to see.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley