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Overloading Australia suggests 'boundless plains' should be removed from the Australian National Anthem

Overloading Australia, a new book by O'Connor and Lines, suggests '*boundless plains*' should be removed from the Australian National Anthem.

Advance Australia Fair is a fine tune, but it could be vastly improved by removing a few objectionable lines that perpetuate the myth that Australia is a big empty country, according to *Overloading Australia*.

The book provides new and fair ways to think about population; it shows why we must cap Australia's population growth, and that it is possible to do this without policies that are inhumane towards families and immigrants.

According to co-author Mark O'Connor, *Overloading Australia* argues that Australians, like bulimics, have a kind of false body image about their country.

"Generations of propaganda by the likes of the Australia Unlimited movement (recently re-born) culminated in our adopting *Advance Australia Fair* in 1984 as our national anthem. Yet in human terms we are not so much a "big country" as "a small country with big distances" between the well-watered or resource-rich areas.

"The statement "*For those who've come across the seas/ We've boundless plains to share*" is nonsense --unless we're planning to deposit them in the central deserts," Mr O'Connor said.

Australia's agriculture frontier closed in the 1890s, and even then the land was not truly empty but seized from its Aboriginal owners. New arrivals since then have not found "empty" land to farm, and have had to pay through the nose for land, even for housing blocks in the cities.

According to co-author, William Lines, we need to stop pretending our country is still in its pioneering adolescence. The "empty country" is a myth which protects vested interests and leads towards the population-foolish policies of recent governments. Result, we are now on course for 100 million Australians by 2100.

"Getting a load of old cobblers out of our beloved national anthem would help to get a load of old cobblers out of our brains, allowing us to see that the quality of all aspects of our children's lives will be maximised if the population of Australia by the mid C21st is kept to approximately 23 million," Mr Lines said.

"If our Government won't talk population, then it's not serious about cutting emissions, managing the water supply, managing food supplies, and a good general quality of life for Australians," Mr Lines said.

The book, published by EnviroBook, Sydney is available for \$19.95. ISBN 978-0-85881-224-6

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