
From: [REDACTED]
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Hi Measuring What Matters team

I am pleased to see the government on seeking to measure (and publish) what matters. I only have time for a quick submission so I will concentrate on the single most important metrics.

I can say with certainty that the *only* thing that actually matters this century is how successfully Australia and the world tackle the biodiversity and climate crises. Over the past couple of centuries we have seen enormous amounts of land clearing and fossil fuel emissions, which are now rapidly catching up with us. Without a stable climate and thriving biodiversity, we lose reliable/adequate food production, fresh water, human health, the safety of cities and communities, which is a slippery slope to famine, conflict, and the breakdown of civil society.

We've arrived at this situation because some economists told us that GDP growth was the single biggest determinant of a strong economy. Because other economists told us that "shareholder value maximisation" was the singular goal of the firm. Those goals have led to rampant ecological destruction and spiralling inequality.

Accordingly, I submit that GDP and growth-based metrics should be discontinued and instead as a country we should focus on natural capital and societal health measures and achieving a steady state economy that benefits all and is within the planet's capacity to sustain.

I commend to you the work of Kate Raworth and her Donut Economics model, part of which is based on work by the Stockholm Resilience Centre's Planetary Boundaries framework. I also encourage you to read the work of Jason Hickel and other proponents of Degrowth. Though the term is in contradiction with what our ears are used to, the concepts are vital if we are to survive this century.

There's no economy and no society on a dead planet, but that is where our current fixation with growth-based metrics is taking us. That fixation has seen human behaviour analogous to a culture of bacteria on a Petrie dish, multiplying exponentially and consuming its food source until there is none left. We are reaching that point. There is no Planet B.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

David McEwen

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