Australia is one of the least densely populated nations in the world and yet, according to the Australia Talks National Survey 2021, 35 per cent of Australians say the population is getting too big for the country to handle.

Australia is one of the nations in the world with lowest population density. Still, 35 percent of population believe that the population is too high for country to handle. This belief is especially shared with those living in regional and rural areas who claim that change of demographics particularly in city adversely affects the environment. Tim Soutphommasane form the University of Sydney claims that this is not simply true and some of the greenest cities in the world are much more densely populated than Sydney or Melbourne.

Intro:

In 2020, more than half ofthe world population lived

in urban areas. And this figure is expected to rise to

nearly 70 percent by 2050. As cities grow to accommodate

for this influx of population, the main challenge facing

major cities and their authorities is to grow horizontally

or vertically. In other words, follow the model of some

of the least dense cities in world like Melbourne or

Sydney in Australia or moderately dense like Singapore.

One major concern for those who are against cities with

high population densities is environmental impact of

densely populated Cities. However, Tim Soutphommasane

form the University of Sydney claims that this is not simply

true and some of the greenest cities in the world are much

more densely populated than Sydney or Melbourne.

2nd:

It can be seen from the map on the right that cities

in East Asia have the highest population densities

like Mumbai (48000 inhabitants/Km2) in India

which is 20 times higher than Melbourne. Furthermore,

it is evident that majority of cities in western countries

especially USA have low population densities which

is mainly attributed to the introduction of

suburbanization in the 1950s.

3rd:

The house prices do not surpass certain threshold in

Cities with more than 8000 inhabitants/Km2 which may

Sound counterintuitive as higher population density correlates

With higher demand for housing. However, low population

Densities can drive prices much higher due to urban sprawl as

well-located land is of high demand and supply is limited.

This helps to explain the overly expensive house prices in Melbourne

And Sydney in Australia.

4th:

As cites grow horizontally, the inhabitant’s dependent on use of

private transport increases as it gets much more expensive to provide

same level of public transport accessibility in much smaller cities.

that’s why after certain threshold in population density (graph above),

the private energy use for transport drops drastically.

Inhabitants of Atlanta, with a very low population density, in united

states consume whopping 75 times more energy for private passenger

use than inhabitants of Singapore (with similar population size).

5th:

Singapore and Melbourne both have relatively similar population but

The population in Melbourne live on a land four times bigger than that of

Singapore. Singapore’s rail network known as Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)

Is world-renowned in terms of efficiency and quality of service and has

a length of 216 Km. On the other hand, Melbourne rail network has

a length 496Km which provides less accessibility due to its shear

size. It can be seen from the above graph that Singapore’s rail network

has loops (Cycles) in its network which cuts the travel time and makes

the use of public transport more desirable. Low population density

means better, faster, and cheaper public transport as more loops

can be embedded in the network.

6th:

Finally, there is another aspect to low population density

which is loneliness. More dense cities provide more buzzing

communal areas which increase the chances of encounter

between the fellow citizens. Studies show that trust issues

and alcoholism are likely consequences of loneliness.

this increase in interactions can introduce the individuals

to different worldviews and create a more cohesive and

functional society.