

Hello.

Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns re what I believe to be misguided and damaging foreign investment and population policies. This letter which appeared in the age sums it up very well.

I noted with interest the changes Hong Kong and Canada have made to their policies in this regard.

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Liveability disappears

High-density CBD growth and continued overseas investment could have "dire and long-lasting impacts", according to town planners ("Skyscraper density beats Hong Kong's", 9/2). This hardly comes as a surprise. Australia promotes a deliberately high population growth policy in conjunction with policies including tax breaks on property speculation, lax regulations on foreign property investment, and close ties between property developers and state government.

If housing is seen as a money-making opportunity by people who already have money, instead of homes for people to live in, and population policy is geared towards short-term GDP growth rather than a long-term investment in people's wellbeing, then it is only obvious that one result will be poorly designed skyscrapers with local amenities.

Only a serious look at how we manage property on a state level, in addition to how we operate our tax system and population policy on a federal level, have any chance of tackling this issue in the longer term.