

## Australian Government “Measuring What Matters” submission

While I think it’s nice that the Australian Government wants to seem as though they are interested in “measuring what matters”, I’m highly doubtful that any new metric will result in any significant changes.

We already measure and know:

- Poverty rates;
- Greenhouse gas emissions (in particular compared to the science-based targets, of which we are woefully inadequate);
- Species loss/extinction rates;
- Wage growth rates (or lack thereof);
- (growing) inequality rates;
- Deforestation rates, in particular of old-growth forests;
- Gender inequality;
- First nations inequality, in particular incarceration rates and deaths in custody;
- Social inequality.

And yet most of these metrics continue to get worse.

I’d really like to see the Australian Government move beyond “measuring” to “doing” and actually focus on delivering policy that will improve the lives of Australian’s, not simply talk about measuring.

Less talk, more action. You have what you need already.

I suspect the reason for the non-delivery and stalling by seeking metrics rather than doing is due to a focus on neo-liberal capitalism: a belief in the private sector and a deregulated markets to deliver outcomes they are simply not capable of delivering.

If the Australian Government is really interested in improving the lives of all Australians it can do so in a heartbeat, but it will need to move away from its current neoliberal ideology and focus on improving the metrics it already has available to them, through public sector policy and market regulation.

I can highly recommend the book *Less is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World* by Jason Hickel if the Australian Government is genuinely interested in improving the lives of all Australians ensuring that we don’t erode the ecological foundations on which we depend in the process.

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