

# Structure for a 6-session U3A course on 'A Sustainable SA'

Aug-Oct 2019 Wed 1.00 pm at U3A, Regent St South, Adelaide

## Lecture 1 (Wed 7 Aug) Population and sustainability

*Dr Jane O'Sullivan, Uni. of Qld. Jane has participated in a wide range of cross-disciplinary collaborations with international colleagues in ecological economics, environmental philosophy, climate change responses and family planning promotion and implementation. She has published groundbreaking analyses on the economic impacts of population growth, population aging and the use of population projections in relation to projecting climate change. She is an executive member of Sustainable Population Australia and an associate of The Overpopulation Project.*

- Overview of global population trends
- Population trends in Australia and SA
- Aging, dependency and other key demographics
- The public and political confusion of natural population increase, refugees and immigration
- What might a desirable, sustainable population for Australia and SA be in the long run?

## Lecture 2 (Wed 21 Aug) Environmental aspects of sustainability

Peter Martin

*Secretary, Wakefield Futures Group, President of SA Branch of Sustainable Population Australia, and ex CSIRO, CRC CARE and Weeds CRC*

- Definitions of sustainability, and attempts to measure and monitor it
- The context of planet Earth and the impact of humanity on the biosphere
- The biophysical reality of SA and the human impact of European settlement
- What is current data telling us about our progress and the path ahead?
- What might a truly sustainable environment in SA look like?

## Lecture 3 (Wed 4 Sept) Economic growth and sustainability

Dr. James Ward

*Associate Head of School: Teaching & Learning, School of Natural & Built Environments, Uni SA*

- Economic growth in SA – history, stated goals and projections
- The paradigm of endless GDP growth – its origins, continuing dominance, and feasibility
- Prosperity without growth – is it possible anywhere?
- New ideas on how our economy might be organised that embrace sustainability
- The future of work and leisure

#### **Lecture 4 (Wed 18 Sept)      Human wellbeing – its importance and how we measure it**

Assoc. Prof. Philip Lawn, Uni. of Adelaide (to be confirmed)

*Philip Lawn is an ecological economist who has produced eight books, 40 book chapters and over 50 journal articles on sustainable development, green national accounting, international traded and the environment, ecological macroeconomics, and issues concerning the perceived conflict between environmental conservation and employment. His latest book is on the ecological economics of climate change.*

- The need to transcend GDP
- Other established ways of measuring human wellbeing
- The experience of Vermont, Maryland and other US states with the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)
- Recent work on the GPI as applied to SA

#### **Lecture 5 (Wed 2 Oct)              The place of energy**

Andrew Kitto

*Andrew is an Electrical Engineer with experience and expertise in both conventional and renewable electricity. Given that an electrical system is hard to see, apart from the visible hardware such as power lines and transformers, Andrew has prepared a talk based on the analogy with a tandem bicycle. This talk will show how a power system works, how it can fail, and provide a good insight into how a transition to renewables can be managed.*

- The original energy crisis – wood shortages
- The oil and coal cycles – their relation to global warming and mass extinctions
- The modern electrical power system - analogy with a tandem bicycle
- Renewable energy - technical options and the concept of 200% renewables
- Energy storage options - batteries, pumped hydro and solar thermal
- Future energy options - renewables and hydrogen

#### **Lecture 6 (Wed 16 Oct)            Political aspects of sustainability**

Peter Martin

*Secretary, Wakefield Futures Group, President of SA Branch of Sustainable Population Australia, and ex CSIRO, CRC CARE and Weeds CRC*

- 40 years of neoliberal ideology - the social consequences and emerging political fallout
- The current legal framework governing action on sustainability in SA
- Can the current model of representative democracy effectively deal with the main sustainability issues? Why has it failed so far?
- The end of the political class? New ideas for governance by citizens.
- The journey ahead - review of ideas presented in this course on the sort of political, economic and cultural changes that might be necessary for SA to achieve real sustainability.

