Ever more infrastructure for no gain

The cost of UK population growth

by

Dr Jane O’Sullivan: University of Queensland
Roger Martin: President, Population Matters
Cost of population growth

Expansion of fixed capital costs

6.9% of GDP per 1% population growth
Infrastructure cost per additional UK person

£165,000

At current population growth rates

£1,000 per existing person
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pop growth</th>
<th>Cost pa (% GDP)</th>
<th>Cost pa (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.24%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>£26 bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.58%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>£67 bn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.86%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>£106 bn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Masquerades as ‘investment’
but
actually depreciation or maintenance
because
simply maintains, not improves, standards
Abate carbon at $1 per tonne

Preventing an unwanted birth abates a lifetime of emissions.

The same dollar:
improves health;
conserves energy, soil, water, wildlife;
reduces hunger, waste, pollution;
improves security.
Projection for Changes in Temperature and Population in the Sahel

Sources: United Nations Population Division (medium projection), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) RCP 8.5