

# Queensland Premier Steven Miles calls for reduction of overseas migration



By Jack McKay



By Kate McKenna

ABC Radio Brisbane

Immigration Policy

Tue 14 May 2024 at 3:39pm



Premier Steven Miles wants the federal government to moderate overseas migration levels. (AAP: Darren England)

## In short:

The Queensland government wants the federal government to consider cutting back international migration.

In the year to September 2023, Queensland's population climbed by 2.7 per cent, which is a net increase of about 144,000 people.

## What's next?

Premier Steven Miles says a reduction of overseas migrants could help to ease the housing crisis.



Queensland Premier Steven Miles has called on the federal government to moderate international migration levels.

The Queensland government says the state's population increased by 144,000 people – 2.7 per cent – in the year to September, which was the highest growth on record in absolute terms.

According to Treasurer Cameron Dick, who is calling for international migration to be halved, 88,000 of the 144,000 additional people came from overseas.

Mr Miles said the population was climbing faster than homes could be built and urged the federal Labor government to consider reducing overseas migration levels.

"While our Homes for Queenslanders plan will deliver more homes, if migration continues at current levels we'll need tens of thousands more homes every year than industry can build," he said.

"That's a big part of why prices and rents have risen so rapidly.

"The federal government needs to assist us to ensure infrastructure keeps pace with population growth.

**"We urge them to consider moderating migration levels to assist with population growth."**

The Queensland government requested 8,500 skilled worker visas in 2023-24, but the federal government only allocated 1,550, which was less than 20 per cent of what was asked for.





Queensland Treasurer Cameron Dick has suggested overseas migration levels should significantly reduced. (ABC News: Lucas Hill)

## Call to halve migration

In an interview with ABC Radio Brisbane Queensland Treasurer Cameron Dick said he wanted international migration levels to be halved.

He said international migrants made up about 88,000 of the 144,000 people that were added to the state's population in the 12 months to September.

"In the 2010s, for example, we had population growth in Queensland of about 1.5 per cent," Mr Dick said.

"We're almost twice that at 2.7 per cent.

"I think net overseas migration should be halved.

**"That would be the order of magnitude you would need to bring us back to about 1.5 per cent."**



He acknowledged it was better to have a growing population rather than a shrinking population, but said migration levels were becoming "very difficult" for the state to manage.

The federal government has previously forecast that net migration in Australia will fall to 250,000 by 2025, which is down from 510,000 in 2022-23.

The Commonwealth also unveiled a new migration strategy in December last year, which Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neill said would help "bring net overseas migration back to normal in a very short time frame".



Opposition leader David Crisafulli has promised to "plan properly". (ABC News: Victoria Pengilley)

### **'Straw men to blame'**

In the year to September 2023, Queensland's population growth also included a net increase of 32,625 people from interstate as well as a natural net increase of 23,010 people.



At a press conference in Townsville, Queensland Opposition Leader David Crisafulli did not directly answer whether the LNP supported the state government's calls.

"After 10 years of creating a health crisis, a housing crisis, a youth crime crisis, all of a sudden the state government, in the shadows of an election, are trying to find straw men to blame when the truth is they just haven't planned," he said.

"They knew migration was occurring — they were standing up and gleefully being the cheerleaders for it, but they didn't plan for it and as a result Queenslanders are living it.

**"My commitment to Queenslanders is we will plan properly and it'll be measured."**

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Posted Tue 14 May 2024 at 3:39pm, updated Tue 14 May 2024 at 5:14pm



**Queensland Legislative Assembly**

Number: 5825T/580



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