

2025 National Forum on Australia's Wellbeing Wellbeing In Action

21st to 23rd October 2025 Ngannawal and Ngambri Country - Canberra

**PANEL: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF GROWTH
IN THE ECONOMY? DO WE NEED GROWTH?
IF SO, WHAT TYPE OF GROWTH?**

"GROWTH" IS A VERY
WESTERN CONCEPT.



MODERATED BY
WARWICK
SMITH

MY QUESTION
COMES FROM
INSIGHTS FROM
ECONOMISTS
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN BY GROWTH?

WE NEED TO BECOME
MORE SOPHISTICATED

WE ARE SPEAKING TO
A DIVERSE CROWD...
THESE CONVERSATIONS ARE
REACHING THE MAINSTREAM

GROWTH

IN WHAT WAY?
GROW WHERE?

I HAVE NOTED
SOME FIRST NATIONS
INTERPRETATIONS
OF GROWTH IN MY
PRESENTATION



KATHERINE
TREBECK

GROWTH IS OFTEN
AN EXCUSE

DO WE EXIST TO
SERVE THE ECONOMY OR
CAN WE CREATE AN
ECONOMY THAT
SERVES US?



"OF COURSE WE NEED
TO GROW THE 'PIE'...
HOW ELSE DO THE
SLICES GET BIGGER?"

GROWTH?

OF WHAT... DON'T TALK
ABOUT ECONOMIC
GROWTH WITHOUT
TALKING
ABOUT WHERE THE
GROWTH IS
COMING FROM



-SIMON
KUZNETS

THE WHOLE
POINT OF EV.
SUBSIDIES IS
TO INTRODUCE
A DISRUPTION
TO THE
MARKET

I'M ALL
FOR THE
RIGHT TIME
OF GROWTH

ARE WE SERIOUS
ABOUT TRANSITIONING
OR ARE WE PRETENDING?

'RENT SEEKING'
IS AT THE
ROOT OF
MANY OF
OUR GROWTH
PROBLEMS

Visual Scribe by
gavinblake.com.au
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"MINING IS THE
BACK BONE OF
THE COUNTRY"

"YEAH, BUT
HOSPITALITY WAGES
ARE EQUAL TO
MINING WAGES
- OVER ALL"

GROWTH IS GOOD
BUT WHAT KIND
OF GROWTH?

GREG
JERICHO

I LIKE TO
PICK APART
AND UNDERSTAND

GDP

IS OUR GROWTH
LEADING US
DOWN A
DARK PATH?



WE CAN'T EVEN TAX
THE GAS INDUSTRY PROPERLY!

WE HAVEN'T HAD A REAL
RECESSION IN MY WORKING LIFE

I HAVE HOPE THAT WE
CAN SET UP SYSTEMS
SUCH THAT WE ACHIEVE
PRODUCTIVITY THAT IS
EQUITABLE, SOUND
AND FAIR

AI - HUMAN INNOVATION
IS TO BE EMBRACED
I HOPE IT
DRIVES
PRODUCTIVITY
WITHOUT
TOO MUCH LOSS

ANGELA
JACKSON

PRODUCTIVITY
GROWTH MEANS
DOING WHAT
WE DO - BETTER

ECONOMICS THAT
CARES ABOUT
WELLBEING ISN'T
RADICAL LEFT
THINKING...
IT'S ACTUALLY
VERY MAINSTREAM

WHAT IS
DE-GROWTH,
AND WHO
LOSES?

WHAT MECHANISMS
CAN WE USE TO
HELP US ACHIEVE
OUR ENVIRONMENTAL
OUTCOMES?

