

ALAN Kohler rightly points out that population growth is straining government budgets and underpins the drive to privatise more public assets ("Contest tearing the budget apart," 6/5). He adds that eventually we will run out of private assets to pay for needed infrastructure.

Immigration makes up 61 per cent of population growth. At more than \$100,000 in public infrastructure per extra person, cutting immigration would seem to be a glaring omission from proposed budget cuts.

We could save \$20 billion by bringing immigration back to under 100,000 — which is what it was in the mid-1990s — and reduce unemployment at the same time.

Jenny Goldie, Michelago, NSW

The Australian  
8 May 2014, p. 11