Е. Рыжинская

THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF AUSTRALIAN EXCESSIVE IMMIGRATION POLICY

Immigration has always been an important hallmark of Australian society. Nowadays many people still come to the country primarily because of the conditions provided by the government, as well as the high standards of living and education, and the unique nature. Naturally, high level of immigration has a number of negative after-effects for Australia.

First, the difficulties arise because immigration became an important complement to natural population growth in Australia, able to compensate for labour shortages resulting from an ageing population, and the Australian government began to use the immigration ceiling as a lever to meet labour needs due to demographic pressures and the nation's economy has come to rely on a quasi-population policy.

Another problem is the current dependence of the Australian economy on immigrants. Since the spread of the COVID-19 virus and the closure of borders have greatly reduced immigration flows, this has primarily led to a reduction in the country's GDP. The ongoing border closures have also affected Australia's main imports, particularly international student migration and tourism, which make up a significant part of these imports. The decline in immigration has affected the level of consumption and caused critical problems in the labour market in some industries. And of course, fewer immigrants have led to fewer working-age people entering the tax base.

The important issue is the increased cost and complexity of providing some infrastructure. There is currently a shortage of public hospital beds across the country, although the arrival of immigrants and the accompanying population growth has increased the demand for hospitals. Many of the country's roads are also unable to cope with the existing volume of traffic, and large cities are experiencing problems with water supply.

One more difficulty is that there is now a widespread shortage of affordable housing in Australia, as the construction industry cannot build homes fast enough to accommodate the extra people.

The last and most extensive issue concerning excessive immigration is the impact on the environment. Currently, the most pressing problem in Australia is the lack of fresh water due to the large number of immigrants and the increase in

the population as a whole. It should also be noted that population growth due to immigration became one of the main factors determines the growth of domestic greenhouse gas emissions. The coastal region, which has historically been used for commercial fishing, now faces additional pressure. Huge levels of immigration and population growth have also led to widespread degradation of the landscape. The latter is manifested in the salinization of the soil and the erosion of the topsoil.

Thus, we see that the excessive immigration policy of the Australian government has led to a number of negative after-effects, both for the economy as a whole and for individual areas of the country. Without constant action to find innovative solutions, high growth rates can also exacerbate problems such as congestion and excessive waste productions. To take full advantage of immigration and population growth, Australia must continue to explore and address these issues.