

## **DT024 - Immigration: protecting the indigenous stock**

Matt Ridley (article, 24 July 2000) and Professor Cohen (letter, 26 July) say that the economic case for increased immigration is unanswerable and our prosperity depends upon it. They may or may not be right. What we do know is that this question should not be judged solely on economic grounds.

One of the other important factors lies in the essential nature of a country. This demands that the indigenous stock should not be treated as interchangeable with foreigners (or aliens, as we officially called them until very recently). So it should not be subject to excessive dilution by immigrants.

When that happens the country is swamped, and loses its distinctive historic character. Fiji is in turmoil because indigenous Fijians woke to find they were being ruled by a government mainly composed of foreigners deriving from another country. That is not what we want here.

