The Workers' Weekly
Guardian
#2194 15 June 2026
$5
COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA
We acknowledge the sovereignty of the First Peoples of Australia.
www.cpa.org.au
ISSN 1325-295X

Rise of the corporate state

M Santos

It is well known that the US military is increasingly embedded in Australia's military and Defence Department at the expense of Australia's sovereignty. Not so well known is the extent to which Australia's sovereignty and security is being hijacked by a multi-billion dollar US corporation, Palantir.

Palantir is a rapidly expanding, pro-Trump multinational tech company that boasts generating $1.6 billion in revenue in the first quarter of this year, "a new record in our company's history, representing a soaring 85% growth rate over the same period the year before."

Palantir is making inroads into the Australian Defence Department and other government agencies with access to highly sensitive military, security, financial, and personal data.

These departments and agencies use Palantir's platforms to assemble detailed profiles of people, monitoring their social networks, tracking their movements, identifying their physical characteristics and reviewing their criminal history.

GetUp's Paul Ferris has called Palantir "one of the most politically toxic corporations in the world."

Palantir CEO Alex Karp boasts that their AI is killing Palestinians, and calls democracy "a problem to be solved." The company has a $30 million contract with Trump's deportation agency ICE for a platform designed to help it locate and remove people.

On top of existing contracts with ICE and the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Palantir has just signed a new five-year US$1 billion contract with the DHS. It also has its claws in Medicaid and police operations.

UN special rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese, has said in a report that there were "reasonable grounds" to believe Palantir provided technology enabling Israel's military operations in Gaza, including "automatic predictive policing technology" and real-time battlefield data integration for "automated decision-making."

Palantir pavilion, World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland, 2017. Photo: Cory Doctorow – flickr.com (CC BY-SA 2.0)

"Israel's genocide continues: because it is lucrative for many," Albanese's report said. It certainly is.

Alex Karp is a vocal supporter of Israel. Palantir has provided Israel with multiple AI-powered data analytics tools for military and intelligence purposes. Palantir's AI-powered data bases are also reportedly being used by Israel to attack targets in Lebanon and Iran.

AUSTRALIA

The Department of Defence has contracts with Palantir including software support and maintenance worth millions of dollars.

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC), the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC), the Australian Signals Directorate, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and Corrections Victoria (prisons) also have contracts with Palantir.

Serious questions are being asked about the nature of the contracts, how they were awarded, and lack of transparency about what personal information on individuals Palantir will have access to.

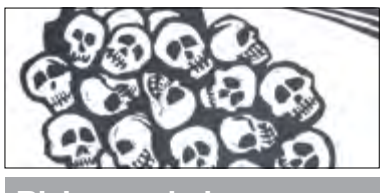
Since 2023 the Future Fund – Australia's sovereign wealth fund – has significantly increased its shareholdings in Palantir. It reportedly holds more $160 million worth of Palantir shares, up from $25 million in 2024.

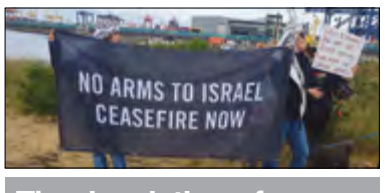
Continued on page 2

"Israel's genocide continues: because it is lucrative for many"

5

US pharmaceuticals vs Australia's PBS

6

Rising workplace deaths and injuries

9


The desolation of the word 'ceasefire'

16

Tear up the AUKUS agreement now!

Guardian

Issue 2194 15 June 2026

We're not ready

Have you been to an Emergency Department lately? Whatever the reason for going is, it's an alarming experience. Someone close to this paper took a 99-year-old relative to an ED and couldn't find a seat. Most people know someone who's had to wait for more than five hours. A side effect of that is that if you do get seen quickly, that's terrifying because it means you've got something seriously wrong with you. If you've ever needed the services of an ambulance, you may have been involved in 'ramping' – you're in the ambulance, but there's no room in the hospital, so you wait and wait in the vehicle.

This is healthcare in Australia under normal conditions. Now imagine Emergency Departments and ambulance services if there's a crisis on. The crisis could be another pandemic. It could be a climate change-caused disease, like Dengue fever (predicted to move south as average temperatures rise). The next crisis could also be war-related – if there's a war and we have serious casualties, the medical system is going to have to change drastically. Even if there's a war and no Australians are injured, there will be shortages, as anyone who buys petrol or diesel knows right now. This country imports 90% of its medications (see 'US Pharmaceuticals vs PBS,' page 5). Emergency Departments show a system under severe strain that will not handle the next crisis.

Emergency Departments and ambulances don't exist in isolation. People go to EDs not only because of sudden emergencies, but also because it's the only way to get treatment they can't afford elsewhere. People go because the clinics they'd rather go to aren't properly resourced. People also go because elective surgery waiting lists mean that a lot of patients develop complications and need emergency treatment. 'Elective' sounds like it's optional, but elective surgery is surgery which is not immediately life-threatening, but needed. Going without it can mean you don't get to walk, or work. While waiting, people live in pain and sometimes develop life-threatening problems.

It doesn't have to be like this. Australia could take the heat off Emergency by fully funding a public health system. If all health care was bulk billed and easily available, it would make a huge difference to the over-stressed emergency departments. We can afford this. We can also afford to put dental care in Medicare and make that bulk-billed too (bad dental care leads to a lot of other health problems). This country can afford to properly fund elective surgery, so that people don't need emergency treatment while they're waiting, sometimes for years.

Doing these things would cost money, but the system as it is now costs everyone. If there's another crisis, it'll cost us much more in money and lives lost. This country can afford to have a fully funded high-quality medical system, free at the point of delivery. Just cancelling AUKUS and finding a rational alternative would more than pay for it. Once we had a properly functioning medical system, Australia could stop funding the private healthcare system, which would unleash billions.

What stands in the way of Australians not waiting for almost a full day in Emergency, or waiting for years for elective surgery isn't a shortage of money. It's a political system that puts the interests of big business first. The Communist Party of Australia is working for a country that is run by the people of this nation in the interests of those people. If that's what you'd like, consider joining or supporting the CPA.

Rise of the corporate state

Continued from page 1

Palantir is subject to US laws that allow access to foreign data held by US corporations. A Department of Defence contract for "Industrial Intelligence Capability" obtained by *Crikey* is the first time that the nature of the company's work with Australia has been made public.

When Palantir signed a $7.1 million contract with Australia's Department of Defence in 2024, the contract included details of how Palantir would embed staff in Defence and handle Australian data, and featured a number of favourable contractual conditions.

The decision to rely on a US provider for sovereign defence work is something that unsettles many analysts. One asked, "Do you think the US is going to give a shit about Australia if we need them? If war comes to us, Palantir is going to choose their own soil."

Greens Senator David Shoebridge, said the Future Fund had "funnelled over $100 million into Palantir's global surveillance empire".

"While Australians worry about digital privacy, our sovereign wealth fund is betting big on the company that pioneered mass data collection for intelligence agencies," Shoebridge said. "Instead of investing in renewable energy and healthcare innovation, the Future Fund is pouring money into Donald Trump's favourite surveillance tech giant. It's a deep and fundamental breach of public trust.

"We should be deeply concerned when [Palantir] is embedded in institutions across Australia and vacuuming up ever more sensitive datasets."

"Governments in this country are rushing to sign contracts with Palantir despite a growing public backlash and with zero clarity about what data they are giving to this multinational threat," Shoebridge warns. US law "gives US authorities the right to access data held by businesses based in the US, such as Palantir."

WORKERS

Coles signed a three-year deal in 2024 to use Palantir's tools across more than 840 supermarkets to cut costs and "redefine how we think about our workforce."

"Rather than paying workers more or passing savings onto customers, Coles has chosen to invest millions in technology that will 'address workforce-related spend' as part of a of a larger effort to cut costs by a billion dollars over the next four years. Researcher Luke Munn reports.

"Yet the data inevitably excludes significant social, financial and environmental information. The sweat of workers struggling to pack at pace, the belt-tightening of consumers struggling to make ends meet, and the struggle of farmers to survive unexpected climate impacts will go untracked."

Coles are able also to use Palantir's software to collect customers' personal data. Mining operations collect data on environmentalists, farmers and others such as Indigenous communities protesting against mining operations. Rio Tinto, Amazon, Westpac and Nuix are also on its books.

POLITICAL & IDEOLOGICAL

Palantir has published a manifesto with a 22-point statement outlining the worldview of CEO Alex Karp and the company's leadership. It promotes US military dominance, AI-powered weaponry, compulsory military service, and the claim that "American power has made possible an extraordinarily long peace."

Karp has said that for "free societies to prevail" requires hard power, and "hard power in this century will be built on software."

With the characteristic passive-aggressive bigotry of the Trump set, Palantir has written on social media, "Some cultures have produced vital advances; others remain dysfunctional and regressive."

Opposition is mounting in the UK over Palantir's contracts with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), the National Health Service (NHS), and Defence. There are fears that the Trump administration will be granted access to sensitive citizen, military, and commercial data. Unions have called for Palantir to be kept out of the NHS's Single Patient Record system.

CORPORATE TAKEOVER

Palantir enables security, military and other clients to connect vast, disparate datasets, build intelligence profiles and search for individuals based on a range of narrow characteristics.

Palantir's power is what Lenin called state monopoly capitalism "combining the colossal power of capitalism with the colossal power of the state into a single mechanism."

This process is not new, but the power of AI processing and the torrent of data that can be processed and linked to serve such purposes as targeting individuals in the US for deportation or bombing in Gaza and Iran marks a huge and dangerous development.

Palantir's links to the Trump administration and the potential use of such sensitive data takes the encroachment on Australia's sovereignty, already largely surrendered through AUKUS and the ANZUS Treaty, to a new level.

POLICY

Norway's largest asset manager, Storebrand has divested its $24 million in Palantir shares, due to concerns that Palantir's work for Israel might implicate Storebrand in violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

Palantir's incredible access to health, defence, financial and other sensitive government data and its processing are serious incursions into the sovereignty of nation states by a powerful multi-national corporation.

In the UK more than 65,000 patients have written to their local NHS trusts urging them not to adopt Palantir's tech. Close to a quarter of a million people have called on government ministers to break contracts with Palantir.

The Future Fund should also divest itself of its Palantir shares.

The Albanese government must take steps to prioritise human rights, privacy, and digital sovereignty over Palantir's surveillance and profiteering.

Privacy advocates warn that Palantir's platforms can ingest and combine massive, disparate datasets – spanning immigration, healthcare, finance, and law enforcement – which could create a "super-database" of private citizen information without explicit public consent.

The Greens are calling on the government to:

- Immediately freeze all new Palantir contracts across every government agency
- Review and reverse the Future Fund's $100 million investment in Palantir
- Remove Palantir's top secret security clearance pending the outcome of that review
- Conduct a full public audit of every existing Palantir contract particularly in Defence and security agencies, with findings tabled in Parliament
- Cancel all government contracts with Palantir.

Quote of the Week

"It is not enough to bring down a government if there is no political project capable of replacing it. It is not enough to say 'out' if we do not build a 'toward.' The left cannot be content with anger; it must turn that anger into a program, an organisation, and a vision."

Milton Machuca Cortez, author of *Socialismo en Bolivia*

www.cpa.org.au

ETU promotes sovereign power

A new report from the McKell Institute, supported by the Electrical Trades Union (ETU) is suggesting a sovereign power company to provide reliable and affordable power for Australia's manufacturing sector. Here's what the report says:

Australia's shallow industrial base is exposed to extreme volatility and higher energy costs, threatening over 200,000 direct and indirect jobs, tens of billions of dollars in economic benefits in wages, local supply chains, as well as the production of critical products needed for Australian construction and manufacturing.

Other countries are moving to protect their domestic productive capacity, and Australia must do the same.

Renewable power is the cheapest and most stable form of generation. Unlike coal and gas, its 'fuel' is free and its price can be insulated from destabilising global commodity price shocks. But private incentives are preventing sufficient investment in renewables from occurring, exacerbating Australian industry's exposure to an increasingly unreliable and aging coal fleet prone to damaging shutdowns and price spikes.

The federal government has developed new mechanisms to drive the energy transition, and private investment has delivered 42 per cent renewable penetration. But it is not enough to support industry. Under a market-driven system, there is no mechanism to match the supply of renewable energy to the demand of energy-intensive manufacturers at a price they can afford. Major industry investments are not materialising because there is no long-term energy security. This failure is the gap that government must close.

The market alone has never delivered a national energy and industrial transition. Quebec, Norway, Iceland, New Zealand, and the United States all provide industrial electricity through public entities with long-term contracts. Australia did the same 40 years ago when public investment surged into coal generation, laying the foundations for today's smelter fleet and decades of economic benefits.

This is why the federal government must establish Sovereign Power, a new Commonwealth entity to build and own firmed renewable generation, offering long-term power purchase agreements to Australia's strategic industrial facilities. Anchored by the Commonwealth's lower cost of capital and longer investment horizon, Sovereign Power can deliver electricity at a price that makes Australian heavy industry globally competitive in service to the nation's industrial future.

Sovereign capability means controlling the inputs that are fundamental to the functioning of an economy. Australia exercises control over raw materials and labour. But Australia lacks control over the third critical input – electricity. Foreign strategic industries tend to receive support from their governments in the form of lower cost power, forcing Australian industry to compete with their hands tied behind their back.

By providing affordable clean power itself, the federal government can secure sovereign heavy industry capability, increase overall investment in renewables, and attract new investment for a high-productivity, high-skill, and high-wage economy that builds new industries, creates good jobs and revitalises regional communities.

Full report available from mckellinstitute.org.au

Union calls for radical overhaul of Australia's cultural policy

The Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance (MEAA) has released a comprehensive National Cultural Policy submission to the government, outlining a long-term vision to rebuild Australia's battered arts and cultural sectors and improve conditions for workers.

The policy is the union's response to a sector in crisis – marked by years of low incomes, insecure work, underinvestment, declining participation, and growing pressures from global platforms and artificial intelligence.

MEAA Chief Executive Erin Madeley said the submission proposes a long-term, comprehensive policy framework to implement a whole-of-government approach to cultural policy, strengthen working conditions, expand cultural participation, and address the threat of artificial intelligence.

"The government's current Revive policy sets out welcome reforms to Australia's cultural policy, but a more ambitious approach is needed," Madeley said.

"COVID-19, monopoly multinationals, big tech and artificial intelligence have compounded problems that have been brewing for the past two decades – higher ticket prices are reducing audience sizes and increasing costs are crippling smaller organisations and venues – excluding most of the cultural workforce from good jobs and stable careers.

"Culture is an essential component of Australian identity. Artists deserve a living income, and every Australian deserves access to enriching cultural experiences and a chance to participate in the arts."

As part of its platform, MEAA is calling for cultural policy to be elevated across government and embedded as a whole-of-government priority.

Key recommendations include establishing a National Cabinet Ministerial Council on cultural policy and improving coordination across portfolios such as education, communications, and transport to remove barriers to participation.

The submission also proposes increased and more stable public investment in the arts, including indexing funding to both population growth and inflation, and ensuring funding arrangements support organisations of all sizes.

The policy submission also emphasises the centrality of First Nations culture, including by expediting progress on Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) laws, better protections against fake Indigenous art, and the development of a cultural safety framework across the sector.

It also proposed measures to lift cultural participation among Australians. Cultural and civic activity are fundamental to our way of life, and government action needs to support lifelong engagement in arts and culture.

Improving working conditions and wages is a central pillar of the submission, which recommends a cultural sector incomes taskforce, extending the government's Closing the Loopholes reforms stronger protections for freelancers and contractors, and the introduction of portable entitlement schemes to provide access to leave and superannuation.

The union is also calling for big tech to 'Pay Up' through Equitable Remuneration – the inalienable right that ensures original creators receive payment whenever their work is broadcast – to be legislated in Australia and extended to digital and AI uses.

"Arts and culture are fundamental to how we understand ourselves as a nation and connect with each other," Maddely said.

"This policy submission is about ensuring that creative and media workers are supported, that Australians can participate, and that our culture continues to thrive."

Data centre boom risks 26% jump in power prices

A surge in Australian data centre construction driven by AI risks pushing up power bills and climate pollution, according to a new report from the Climate Council.

The report, *Clouded future: Managing risks of the data centre boom*, reveals that Australia is already a global investment hot spot – second only to the USA in 2024 – with 162 data centres in operation and more than 90 projects in the pipeline.

Unchecked, this growth risks:

- 26% wholesale electricity price rise in NSW, and 23% rise in Victoria by 2035 if data centre demand is met with gas, not renewables
- 14% more climate pollution from our main electricity grid by 2035 without intervention
- 3X projected growth in data centre energy demand by 2030 – making their power use equivalent to all Victorian homes – in the midst of the clean energy build out
- 3X projected growth in water demand by 2030 as our climate is becoming hotter and drier. Water utilities have received single site connection requests to be able to use up to 40 million litres a day (equivalent to 16 Olympic swimming pools).

Proactive, swift government action can better align data centre growth with Australia's switch to clean, reliable and affordable energy. Requiring new data centres to match their load with low cost, new renewables and storage will protect Australians from price hikes and pollution surges.

Climate Council CEO Amanda McKenzie said, "Australia is navigating a dual boom: a critical switch to a clean energy system and a historic surge in digital infrastructure. To protect the Australia of tomorrow, our governments must act today.

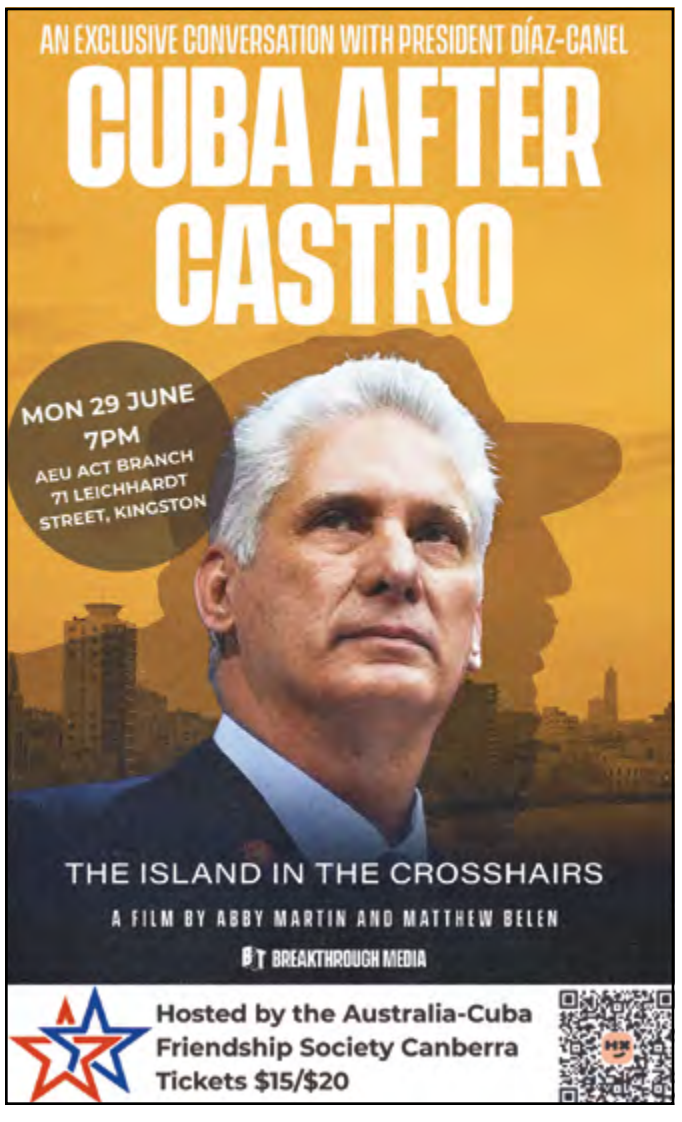
"Data centres are hungry for energy. Governments must proactively manage the surging demand, making sure that they are powered with clean renewable power. If they don't, there is a big risk that they will push up pollution from coal and gas at a time when we're already living through more frequent floods, and ferocious fires.

"Unchecked construction of data centres would hit Australians in the hip pocket, too, if their high energy demand is met by expensive and polluting gas rather than additional renewables. But, matching new data centre load with low cost, new renewables and storage will protect households, and other businesses from those costs.

"There is an opportunity to align the expansion in data centres with climate action, and the time for government action is now."

Climate Council

Support the *Guardian* by donating to Press Fund



CSIRO: government moves the goal posts

Peter Farmer

The Federal government has finally released the new rules for bargaining, and they've shifted the goal posts for non-Public Service agencies, including CSIRO.

A key feature of the Australian Government Public Sector Workplace Relations Policy 2026 pushes out the start date of all new non-APS agency agreements; which can now not commence before March 2027. This will ensure that non-APS negotiations are finalised after outcomes are settled for APS bargaining.

That will affect the CSIRO, as the current enterprise agreement (EA) is due to expire in November 2026 and a replacement deal was expected to operate from that date for the next three years.

In an email to staff, the CSIRO Executive said that to realign the bargaining process to comply with the new rules, the organisation expects to issue a determination to increase salaries (and linked allowances) by six or twelve months, from 20 November 2026. All good?

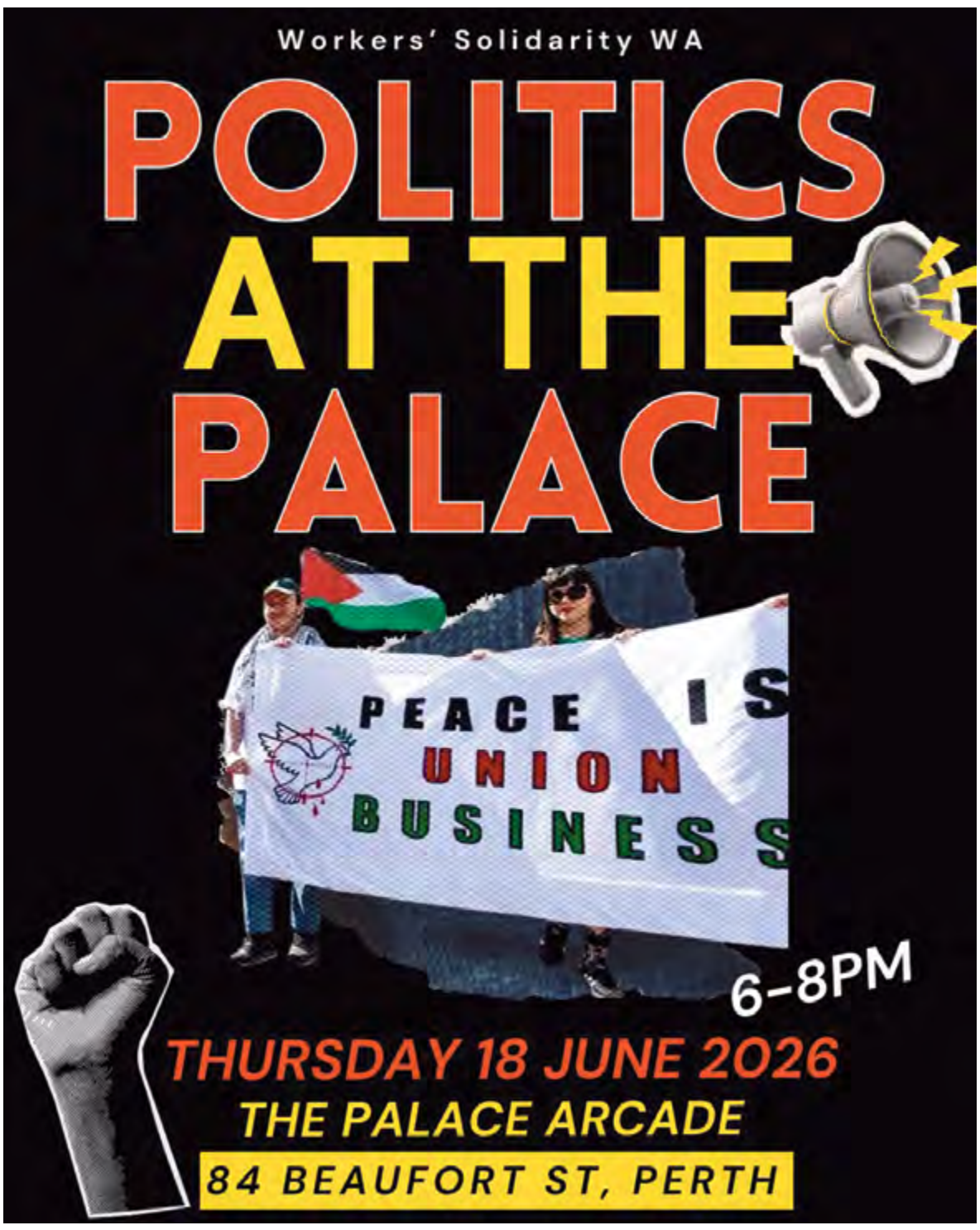
Maybe not. There's no precise guidance on how the change to the bargaining timetable will happen. The Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) is expected to issue interim arrangements for non-APS agencies caught up in the policy shift.

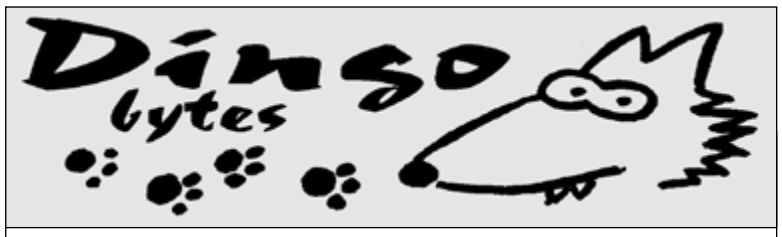
CSIRO Staff Association negotiators met with representatives from Executive following the public release of the policy. They're still working on it, and there will be more meetings.

The union remains committed to a genuine bargaining process and it continues to seek the commencement of negotiations so that the views of CSIRO employees are represented and listened to.

While the new policy sets the framework for bargaining, it does not change the claim the Staff Association will be fighting for at the bargaining table. Anyone in the CSIRO and not yet a member should join now and make sure their views are represented.

the union remains committed to genuine bargaining





In an Australian first, the Federal Court last month accepted an application by a UN Special Rapporteur to make submissions in the Australian Conservation Foundation's legal challenges to the extension of Woodside's controversial North West Shelf gas hub.

The Australian Conservation Foundation is challenging Environment Minister Murray Watt's approval of the North West Shelf out to 2070 and his decision to not assess the harms caused by the project's climate pollution.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, Astrid Puentes Riaño, will join the case to address Australia's international legal obligations and how the international law context should be considered when interpreting the meaning of "impact" under Australia's environment law.

In an advisory opinion released in July 2025 the International Court of Justice held that fossil fuel exporters like Australia cannot export their responsibility for the climate change impacts of the fossil fuels they sell.

Lifetime emissions from the North West Shelf project would be almost 10 times Australia's annual emissions.

"For the first time, a United Nations Special Rapporteur has joined an Australian legal case in the Federal Court," said ACF climate campaigner Piper Rollins.

The matter will be heard by the Federal Court in Melbourne this month.

PARASITE OF THE WEEK: is Hungry Jack's. As Australia's biggest beef buyer without a strong public commitment to remove deforestation from its beef supply, Hungry Jack's has become a major focus for people who want to protect our forests, and the koalas, quolls, gang-gang cockatoos and other species who call them home.

The burgers we buy shouldn't come at the expense of the nature we all love and rely on.

Hungry Jack's sells around 125 million beef patties every year in Australia.

Across Australia, forests and woodlands are still being bulldozed to make room for cattle grazing.

Most cattle graziers don't bulldoze forest these days, but the minority who do are clearing trees at such a rate that it's the biggest driver of habitat destruction by far. In the time since koalas were listed as endangered in Queensland and NSW around two million hectares of koala habitat has been bulldozed.

Large areas of bushland continue to be bulldozed for agriculture, mainly cattle grazing. When this critical habitat is destroyed and fragmented, it makes it harder for koalas to find food, shelter, and safe breeding areas and pushes them into smaller and more isolated areas, making survival harder.

Koalas are already under pressure from bushfires and drought. Ongoing deforestation linked to beef production is making things worse.

Australians should be able to grab a burger on a road trip without worrying that it could be linked to the reckless bulldozing of wildlife habitat.

We know that a better food system that supports nature and people is possible.

Hungry Jack's has the responsibility and the buying power to help drive change across the beef industry, just as its peers are doing. Stronger commitments from major companies can help reduce deforestation risk, improve transparency and support farmers who are doing the right thing by nature.

The Australian Conservation Foundation is calling on Hungry Jack's to:

- commit to stop selling beef linked to deforestation
- improve transparency around where its beef comes from
- strengthen monitoring across its supply chain
- support farmers who produce food while protecting nature
- advocate for policies that help Australia achieve a 100% deforestation-free beef industry

US pharmaceuticals vs Australia's PBS

Graham Holton

US pharmaceutical corporations maintain substantial influence through lobbying, trade pressure, patents, and control over drug supply. So far they have not dismantled Australia's Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), which remains one of the world's strongest medicine price-control systems. Successive Australian governments, from both major parties, have publicly declared that the PBS is 'not on the table' in trade negotiations and have rejected calls to weaken it.

The largest US pharmaceutical corporations are among the most valuable corporations in the world. The largest are Eli Lilly's valued at US$900 billion, Johnson & Johnson US$450 billion, and AbbVie US$400 billion. Other major corporations include Merck & Co., Pfizer, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Novartis and Roche.

The world's largest pharmaceutical corporations are collectively worth US$10 trillion, giving them considerable influence in trade negotiations, lobbying, and healthcare policy debates around the world. The pharmaceutical industry has the ability to capture monopoly profits through patents and market exclusivity.

Despite the government's vow to protect the PBS, US pharmaceutical corporations have significant power over the PBS, mostly exercised through lobbying, trade negotiations, intellectual property rules, and market power. PBS's annual expenditure is A$18 billion, a fraction of the value of the big pharma companies.

The PBS acts as a collective purchaser that limits the ability of monopoly corporations to extract maximum profits from medicines. US pharmaceutical firms therefore seek to weaken mechanisms that constrain their pricing power, while the Australian state attempts to balance public health needs with maintaining access to global pharmaceutical innovation. The PBS is one of the few institutions that partially counteracts the market power of multinational pharmaceutical corporations, which explains why it has been a recurring target of industry lobbying for decades.

Before a drug is listed, the independent Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) assesses whether it is cost-effective compared with existing treatments. This gives the Australian government substantial bargaining power when negotiating prices with drug companies.

The industry association, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) argues that the PBS undervalues innovative medicines by forcing companies to accept lower prices than they could obtain in less regulated markets. This is a laughable claim, given the huge profits those companies make.

In 2025, PhRMA urged the Trump administration to classify the PBS as an unfair trade practice and consider retaliatory tariffs. US pharmaceutical lobby groups encouraged the US government to use tariffs and trade leverage against Australia because of the PBS.

Since the negotiation of the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) in 2005, critics have argued that US pharmaceutical interests gained greater influence over Australian medicine policy. Academic analyses suggested that provisions of the agreement could place pressure on Australia's cost-effective system and strengthen pharmaceutical intellectual property protections.

A pharmaceutical company can refuse to supply a medicine through the PBS if it believes the negotiated price is too low. This gives large corporations bargaining power because patients and advocacy groups may then pressure governments to pay more.

Large pharmaceutical corporations lobby for stronger patent protection and longer periods of market exclusivity. Stronger intellectual property rules can delay generic competition, helping companies maintain higher prices. Although aspects of AUSFTA favoured these objectives, Australia retains the authority to decide which medicines are listed, determine subsidy levels, conduct independent cost-effectiveness assessments, and reject medicines that do not provide sufficient value for money. This reflects the conflict between public health and pharmaceutical capital.

Photo: pxhere.com (CC0)

The Australian pharmaceutical sector is not a healthcare system. It's part of a capitalist system of production and accumulation. Modern pharmaceutical corporations are monopolies controlling patents, research, manufacturing, and global distribution. Their patents allow firms to sell medicines at prices far above their production costs. The resulting profits contribute to their concentration of capital.

The PBS represents a compromise between capital and labour rather than the abolition of pharmaceutical capitalism. The PBS was won through a political struggle rather than a challenge to capitalism, with the state intervening to reduce medicine costs for workers and pensioners. The government acts as a mediator between public health needs and corporate interests, with pharmaceutical corporations earning large profits.

There have been calls for the state to own the pharmaceutical sector. In Australia much pharmaceutical innovation originates from publicly funded universities, hospitals, and government research agencies, such as CSIRO and the National Health and Medical Research Council. State funded medical research has made great achievements, and a state-owned medical sector would mean the profits remain in Australia.

It could also deal with shortages, something Australia is vulnerable to. Australia is at the tail end of a very long global supply chain for 90% of its medicine. Publicly-owned sovereign capacity would make the nation safer and help with bargaining power.

How to get your wage rise

The Fair Work Commission announced its Annual Wage Review decision will raise minimum and award wages by at least 4.75%.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR MINIMUM WAGE EARNERS IN DOLLAR TERMS

The increase will mean the minimum wage will be lifted to $26.44 per hour, or $1004.90 per week for full-time workers – an increase of about $56.90 per week. It will bring some welcome relief to about 2.8 million workers on minimum and award-reliant wages.

WHEN WILL I GET MY PAY RISE?

When and how you receive your new pay rate can depend on how you are employed. If you are on minimum or award wages, you will receive your pay rise in the first full pay cycle after 1 July 2026.

Remember to check your payslips during July to make sure the increase has been added. Wage theft and pay "mishaps" are common in Australia and when underpayment is deliberate, it is a crime. If you don't see the increase, approach your manager or payroll officer. If you get no response, keep all records of your efforts and contact your union for help. Unions regularly help members with underpayments and reimbursement of money they are owed.

HOW WILL THIS INCREASE AFFECT MY AWARD?

The minimum wage acts as a standard that all other wages are tied to. So, if the lowest wage goes up, your award rate will also increase. Make sure you check your payslip in the first full pay cycle after the 1 July. If you're not seeing your pay increase, you should approach your employer or payroll officer. If they don't respond, keep all your records (payslips, phone calls, emails) and call your union as soon as possible if you need help chasing any underpayments.

I ALREADY EARN ABOVE AWARD WAGES

If your pay rate is above the award, it's likely you are paid under a workplace agreement. Many union members are employed under an enterprise bargaining agreement (EBA). An EBA is an agreement between workers and an employer to set conditions and rates of pay over a 3-4-year period. Unions regularly negotiate EBAs to secure better pay and conditions for workers. Just last year the United Workers Union finalised hundreds of agreements.

EBAs are usually set above the award so that wages stay above inflation for the life of the agreement (usually about 3 years so we can forecast likely inflation rates). That's why you will see pay increases built in for each year of the agreement. Check your workplace agreement and you will find a table at the end showing your annual wage increases.

MY PAY IS SET BY A WORKPLACE AGREEMENT. WILL I GET A PAY RISE IN JULY TOO?

It depends. Most agreements have been negotiated with inflation in mind and so are set above award minimums. If your pay rate falls below the award minimum, it must be increased to at least meet the minimum standard. This is known as the Better Off Overall Test (BOOT). If your wage falls below the minimum standard for your type of work, it must be raised. When your workplace agreement expires, and you and your co-workers start negotiating for the next one, you can argue for an even greater pay increase using the most recent FWC decision as your basis.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M ON AN AWARD OR AGREEMENT. HOW DO I CHECK?

The Fair Work Ombudsman website has some resources for workers to find your award or your agreement.

United Workers' Union (UWU)

Unions respond to rising workplace deaths and injuries

Graham Holton

Workplace deaths and serious injuries have risen in Australia in recent years, especially in construction, transport, mining, agriculture, manufacturing, forestry, fishing, warehousing, postal, public administration, safety, and health care.

In 2021 there were 172 traumatic workplace fatalities, increasing in 2023 by 5 per cent to 200 workers. Vehicle incidents remain the leading cause of workplace deaths, accounting for 42 per cent of fatalities. Falls from heights remain the second most common mechanism of death and has steadily increased since 2018.

Particularly vulnerable groups include machinery operators, drivers, older and young labourers, transport workers, migrant and casual workers in construction and logistics. Nationwide there are 400 serious workers' compensation claims every day.

Queensland has recently recorded especially high workplace deaths compared to other states, with major increases in serious compensation claims. In 2023–24 there were 146,700 serious workers' compensation claims. Mental health injury claims are rising rapidly, especially in health care, retail and public-facing jobs. The *Key Work Health and Safety Statistics Australia* 2024 report found that claims for mental health conditions account for 10.5 per cent of all serious claims. This is a 19.2 per cent increase on 2021-22, and a 97.3 per cent increase compared with ten years ago. Over the past ten years, almost 1.2 million workers have made a serious workers' compensation claim involving more than one week of work time lost.

There are several contributing factors to the increase in deaths and injuries. A major factor is the growth of subcontracting, labour hire and the casualisation of work. Labour shortages of skilled workers lead to workers taking on jobs they are not fully qualified for. Unrealistic deadlines lead to safety shortcuts, with workers under pressure for faster construction and delivery times. Other factors are aging infrastructure and equipment. There is also the problem of the underreporting of injuries.

The Australian Council for Trade Unions (ACTU) highlighted the staggering number of workplace deaths across Australia in hope of reinforcing health and safety protocols. ACTU assistant secretary Liam O'Brien said, "Preventing workplace tragedies means defending the laws that provide justice for victims and their families and corporate accountability for employers who fail in their duty to workers."

A major issue is the decline of union presence on worksites. Trade unions argue that cost-cutting and weakened worker protections are major causes of preventable deaths.

In 2024, the Labor government introduced legislation allowing for employers found to have recklessly or negligently caused the death of a worker to face criminal liability and up to twenty-five years imprisonment, as well as extreme fines. Several states, including Queensland and Victoria, now have industrial manslaughter offences carrying major prison terms and corporate penalties for severe negligence leading to worker deaths. Employer groups have focused on training, compliance culture and individual safety practices, placing culpability on the worker.

Of course there's an economic side to the problem. Findings from Safe Work Australia's *Safer, Healthier, Wealthier* report show that in the absence of work-related injuries and illnesses, on average each year Australia's economy would be $28.6 billion larger, 185,500 additional full-time equivalent jobs would be created, and workers across all occupations and skill levels would benefit from an average wage rise of 1.3 per cent.

Artwork by Rini Templeton

Australian content lacking for children and tweens

Australia's children's television sector is at risk of collapse, leaving a widening gap in local content for children and tweens at a cultural moment when governments urgently seek to strengthen youth social cohesion, including through reducing young people's exposure to social media harms.

New RMIT University research warns current screen policy settings are failing to support the local stories young audiences need.

Submitted to the federal government's National Cultural Policy consultation, the report comes as policymakers consider how younger people discover and engage with culture.

The report details the sector's contraction amidst volatile conditions, with subscription video on demand (SVOD) services reporting no new children's commissions in 2024–25, while the 2020 removal of commercial broadcaster quotas for children's television triggered a 97% collapse in investment.

Lead author RMIT Associate Professor Jessica Balanzategui said the findings showed Australia's children's television sector was under severe structural pressure.

"Commercial broadcasters have retreated, streamers are not commissioning new children's programs, and public institutions are being left to carry an increasingly heavy load," she said.

"Over many years research has demonstrated how local children's television scaffolds children's participation in multicultural child citizenship and social cohesion.

"But if we want young people to stay connected to local stories, children and tweens need sustained investment in the sector and local content they can actually find.

"Our research showed that without concrete protections, children's television faces a precarious future. Without dedicated obligations and stronger rules to make local content easy to find, we risk leaving young people with fewer local stories when they need them most."

As commercial broadcasters and SVODs pull back from children's television, the ABC, SBS/NITV and the Australian Children's Television Foundation are being left to do much of the heavy lifting for the sector.

That cultural infrastructure is under growing strain, with the average cost of producing live-action children's drama tripling over five years to $2.82 million an hour, while the volume of new first-release programming has fallen.

Despite increased commissioning investment, the ABC's first-release children's hours have fallen by 59% since 2019, underscoring the widening gap between what the sector is tasked with delivering and what current funding settings can sustain.

Balanzategui said children aged 10 to 14 are increasingly underserved by local screen content, with fewer new local programs being made for an audience already drifting towards global streaming services and video-sharing platforms.

"Children aged 10 to 14 are a particularly difficult audience to retain, with changing viewing habits, rising production costs and weak commissioning pathways all contributing to a shortage of new Australian content for this age group," she said.

The report says the next phase of screen reform must deliver clear obligations, sustained investment and stronger discoverability for Australian content made for children and tweens.

RMIT University

The Australian children's television at the crossroads report is available at apo.org.au

KFC: Would you like cash with that?

P Farmer

Tens of thousands of KFC workers across Australia are being urged to sign up for the KFC class action before registrations close on 26 June 2026 (at 4pm). Failure to register will mean workers risk missing out on compensation from the settlement reached earlier this year.

The class action alleged that KFC and its franchisees failed to provide legally required paid rest breaks to employees over the period 2017 to 2023. Shine Lawyers reached the settlement alongside Gordon Legal. If the Federal Court approves the settlement, registered participants will have their claims assessed under a compensation scheme. Approximately, 90,000 current and former KFC workers across Australia may be eligible, including many people who may not realise they can claim.

Craig Allsopp, Head of Class Actions at Shine Lawyers, said "timing is critical. This is about making sure workers are paid what they're owed. Workers missed out on rest breaks, they shouldn't also miss out on compensation they're entitled to."

"If you worked at KFC during the claim period and didn't get your paid rest breaks, register now," he said. "Class actions like this are so important to ensure big businesses are held to account. This is how system-wide change begins," he said.

The Retail and Fast Food Workers Union (RAFFWU) has welcomed the settlement, saying that it has been campaigning for compensation for fast food workers over rest breaks stolen by the bosses since 2018.

Anyone who worked at KFC at any time between 2017 and 2023 can register by 26 June 2026 at kfcsettlement.com.au. Registration is free, quick and confidential.

Global Sumud Flotilla
Testaments to crimes

MB

Australian survivors detained after participating in the Global Sumud Flotilla in solidarity with the Palestinians, say their ordeal extended beyond detention by Israel, alleging violence at the airport before departure and intrusive treatment upon their return to Australia. Participants are calling for answers and accountability regarding their treatment both overseas and at home.

Participants allege they were subjected to serious mistreatment by Israeli authorities while in detention following their attempt to deliver humanitarian aid, including food, medicine, and baby formula to civilians in Gaza.

Participants have previously described beatings, sexual violence, physical abuse, and psychological abuse by Israeli authorities during their detention.

The testimonies form part of evidence being compiled by lawyers, medical professionals and human rights advocates regarding the treatment of flotilla participants.

Australian participant Neve O'Connor says the violence continued when participants arrived at the airport. "Just when we thought we were safe, the beatings started again," O'Connor said. "After everything we had already been through, the last place we expected violence was at the airport."

Participants say they were prevented from speaking with consular representatives and were physically assaulted from the airport entrance to the stairs of their departing aircraft.

"Before I could speak to Australian representatives, I was grabbed and dragged away from the airport entrance to the stairs of the aircraft, we were beaten, kicked and shoved."

O'Connor says she witnessed punches and elbows to the backs of people's heads, repeated shoving, hair-pulling, trips and kicks. She also reported seeing one woman thrown into a wall with enough force to split her elbow open.

She further alleged that she was thrown into an airport door and later stomped on after being tripped while participants were being moved towards their flight and that she was stomped on at the very steps of the Turkish Airlines aircraft even after participants were beaten from the airport entrance across the tarmac, "I fell and several men stomped on me while I was on the ground."

"This is how Israel said goodbye to people whose only crime was trying to deliver food, medicine, and baby formula to starving civilians."

Participants say that abuse was carried out by every level of authority they encountered, including soldiers, immigration officers, police, prison guards, and airport authorities.

They say the consistency of the violence across multiple agencies demonstrates that the mistreatment was not isolated, but reflected a broader pattern of conduct throughout their detention and deportation process by Israel.

Participants question how Australian consular officials could have failed to hear their screams during the transfer and are seeking clarification regarding public statements that they were not harmed.

Participants say the ordeal continued after they landed in Australia with several reporting being detained, searched, having their phones taken and being directed to provide passwords under threat of jail by Australian officials upon their return.

Participants are seeking an explanation for why those measures were applied.

"After everything that happened overseas, to be treated like terrorists [in Australia] was shocking," said Juliet Lamont, another flotilla participant.

"Australians deserve answers about what happened when survivors came home. Serious questions remain about the treatment of Australians both overseas and upon their return."

The Global Sumud Flotilla continues to call for accountability, justice for survivors, and a meeting between Australian participants and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

The Global Sumud Flotilla is a non-violent aid organisation with participants from over 90 countries.

(for more on the flotilla, see page 8)

GLOBAL SUMUD Australia

GREEN NOTES

Freshwater fish: crisis and hope

Graham Holton

A major global assessment by the World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London found freshwater vertebrate populations have declined by 83 per cent since 1970. A study in *Nature* (2024) reported that nearly one-quarter of freshwater fish species are now threatened with extinction. A 2025 report described African freshwater fish populations as in a major crisis. Researchers warned in 2024 that more than one-third of Australia's native freshwater fish were at risk of extinction. This year conservationists warned that plans to greatly increase water extraction from the Fitzroy River could threaten one of the last major strongholds of endangered sawfish.

Freshwater ecosystems are in a biodiversity crisis. When fish populations collapse, entire ecosystems are destabilised. While rivers, lakes, and wetlands cover less than 1 per cent of the planet's surface, they support a third of all vertebrate species. Once populations become too small, or are isolated, their recovery becomes far harder. Freshwater fish are essential for a nation's food security, wetland stability, river ecosystem health, and Indigenous cultures and livelihoods. This collapse reflects the environmental cost of industrial extraction for profit, the privatisation of water systems for large-scale agribusiness, mining, and hydroelectric megaprojects. Rivers have become 'infrastructure corridors' for capitalist development, rather than ecological systems, placing an unequal burden on poor fishing communities and Indigenous peoples.

The Amazon Basin, which contains the world's greatest freshwater fish diversity, is facing a major collapse with migratory fish populations having fallen sharply. It suffers from climate-driven drought, hydroelectric dams, deforestation, and mining. In Africa Lake Victoria, the Congo Basin, and the Nile River are affected by overfishing, pollution, invasive species, and warming waters. The International Union for Conservation of Nature reports sturgeons, heavily exploited for food and trade, are among the most threatened animal groups globally.

Climate change intensifies droughts, heatwaves, reduces river flows and loss of wetlands, and extreme floods. Warmer water holds less oxygen, killing many species. Large dams block migration routes, river sediment flow is altered, and increased water temperatures lower oxygen levels. Industrial chemicals, mining waste, sewage, fertilisers, and pesticides reduce oxygen and poison aquatic systems. Mercury contamination from mining and PFAS and industrial chemicals poison rivers. Untreated sewage from urban areas and agricultural runoff cause algal blooms.

Conservation requires dam removal, wetland restoration, fish ladders and river connectivity projects, indigenous-led river management, stricter pollution controls, and protected freshwater reserves. For many Aboriginal nations, freshwater fish rivers are important for cultural practices and sacred sites, as well as food. There is growing support for incorporating Indigenous water management and ecological knowledge into river governance.

Many freshwater fish depend on free-flowing rivers for spawning and migration. This requires the removal of obsolete dams, building effective fish passages, restoring environmental river flows for floodplains and wetlands, and limiting excessive water extraction. Climate change is a major multiplier of freshwater collapse. Long-term recovery depends on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, protecting forested watersheds, restoring riverbank vegetation for cooling shade, and improving drought resilience. Without climate stabilisation, many freshwater systems will become too warm or dry for native fish.

There must be stronger roles for Indigenous communities, because traditional ecological knowledge emphasises long-term stewardship and seasonal management. This includes Aboriginal water management in Australia, First Nations salmon restoration in Canada, and Indigenous floodplain management in the Amazon.

Australia has some of the world's highest freshwater fish extinction rates, due to Murray-Darling water extraction, drought, salinity, carp infestation, and poor regulations.

It's not all bad news. Native species like the Murray cod and Macquarie perch had suffered severe declines, but now the Murray cod is rebounding. The olive perchlet, once believed extinct, has been reintroduced through breeding programmes in Victoria. Far more needs to be done, such as increased funding for scientific research, better regulations, incorporating Indigenous knowledge, and repairing a hundred years of damage.

‘We cannot address climate change if we don’t address Gaza,’ an interview with Violet CoCo

Interviewer: Royce Kurmelovs

Royce Kurmelovs: Can you explain a little about what happened?

Violet CoCo: Yeah, so recently I was a part of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition and Global Sumud’s attempt to break Israel’s illegal siege on the Palestinian people, which is causing a starvation of their population. We were intercepted in international waters, kidnapped at gunpoint, and held on a prison ship, which many have compared to a concentration camp. I personally was beaten, tortured and sexually abused, along with many other of my fellow humanitarian peace activists. In fact, it was actually part of the induction to the prison ship that we went through a torture chamber, that is how calculated the cruelty of Israel is.

RK: Can you explain more about what you mean by “torture chamber”?

VC: So on the prison ship, there was a configuration of shipping containers into a box, and that was like an open-air cell for over 100, almost 200, people that were on this particular ship. There were two prison ships. They pushed us into a shipping container with five Israeli soldiers in there, in the dark. They beat each one of us in turn, like in a production line, and sexually assaulted many of us, tasered some of us, and then ejected us into the container yard.

RK: You have been arrested something like 40 times in Australia and you’ve dealt with the Australian criminal justice system in one way or another. Do you have any observations?

VC: Because I have that experience, I was able to do a little bit better, and you know I was able to keep our comrades singing. We sang “We Shall Overcome.” That really helped keep the spirits high in between moments of uncertainty in terms of the level of violence and calculated violence.

I haven’t experienced this same level of violence in the prison system here, but I know that others have. I know that while they don’t necessarily beat into prisoners here in the southern colony, they do things like putting – I mean, obviously sometimes they do, we’ve had all the reports from First Nations people – but other weapons they use in the prisons here, is that they’ll put people they want beaten into cells with volatile characters and use inter-prisoner violence to enact similar attitudes. This is because it’s a colonial attitude. The only people who have worth are people with bank accounts, billions of dollars, companies and property. Those who call for justice and piece are subject to cruelty and oppression.

RK: How did the Australian government help?

VC: I hear that Penny Wong had made a phone call. I hope her wrist is okay. I hear that she’s maybe calling in the Israeli minister. They might have tea together. I don’t know what’s going to happen in that room, but I don’t expect it to be enough.

RK: Most people will know you for your climate activism. Can you talk about the relationship between what’s happening in Gaza and what’s happening on climate change?

VC: The carbon footprint from the from Israel’s genocide in Gaza exceeds 31-to-60 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. There’s extreme air pollution, water and soil contamination, tens of millions of tonnes of debris, much of which is filled with unexploded ordnance, asbestos, and decomposing human remains. The genocide is the equivalent of running 84 coal power plants a year, and in the first four months, the emissions generated were more than 21 climate vulnerable nations combined. 99% of these emissions are linked to Israel’s aerial and ground attacks.

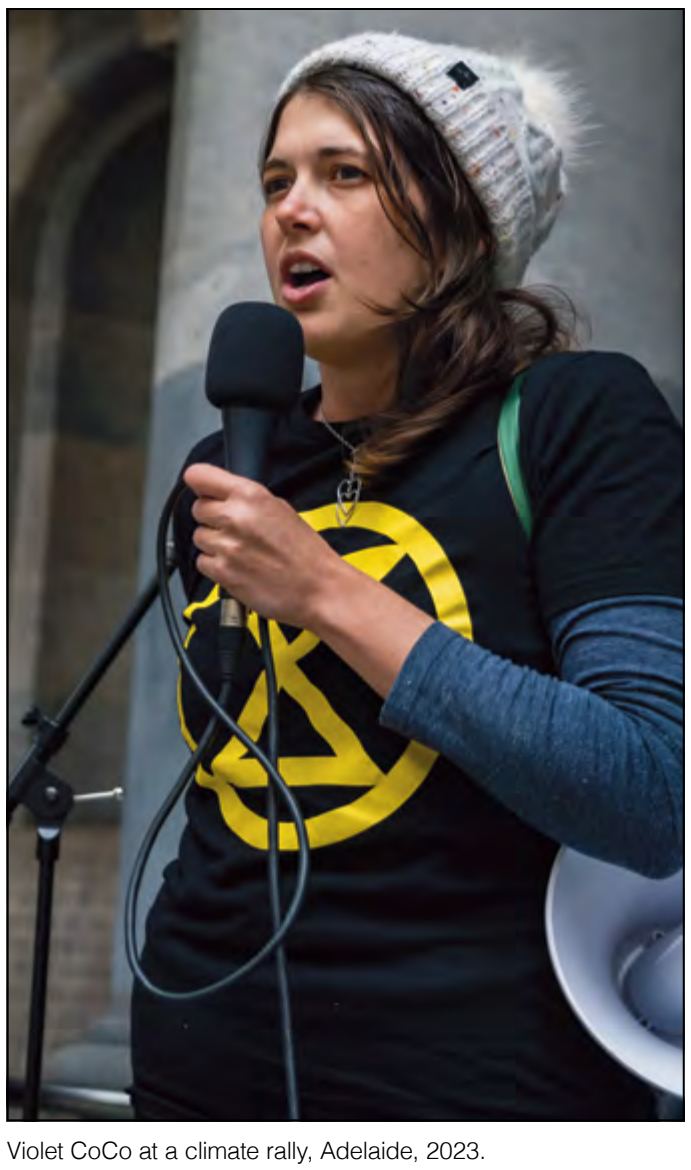
We also see that, you know, obviously this is an ecocide. Trees and animals also don’t like being bombed, and we know that Israel has intentionally destroyed ancient olive groves to plant their own trees in a project to completely wipe out the Palestinian existence and culture.

I think the relationship here is something that you really understand if you listen to Indigenous perspectives of what it is to be indigenous to a place, because that is to be connected to its ecology and be a part of that ecology’s functioning. So, yes, ecocide and genocide run hand in hand. It has here in this colony, and it does in Palestine, because their way of life is intertwined with the natural environment. That’s where they eat from, that’s where you know they cultivate their beauty and their nature.

RK: Is it possible to address climate change in any meaningful sense, if there is no international series of rules or laws that might constrain something like what’s happened in Gaza, and the human rights abuses. Is there a relationship there between these two issues?

VC: Absolutely. If we cannot control the military industrial complex’s capacity to utterly destroy ecosystems and to use extraordinary emissions in their pursuit of wealth, we will all suffer the consequences. We cannot address climate change if we don’t address Gaza.

Raising Hell



Violet CoCo at a climate rally, Adelaide, 2023.
Photo: matthrkac.com.au – flickr.com (CC BY 2.0)

Across Mountains and Seas: exchanges and mutual learning between Chinese and Australian civilisations

Wang Yu
Consul General of
the People’s Republic of China
in Sydney

From the Great Wall, where an agrarian civilisation thrived among the mountains, to Sydney Harbour, where a maritime nation flourished amid the seas, China and Australia, though separated by distance, have both forged time-honoured histories and profound civilisations through the tireless endeavours of generations, and therefore share a deep understanding of the harmony between humanity and nature.

China is a unified multi-ethnic country where ethnic groups live harmoniously together with equality, solidarity and mutual assistance. Chinese culture is the culmination of the excellent cultures of all ethnic groups, created jointly by all its people. Chinese civilisation has evolved and grown by drawing on its past achievements, exploring new ground and adapting to changes.

Chinese inventions such as paper making, gunpowder, printing and the compass as well as China’s astronomical knowledge, calendar system, philosophy and the people-centred doctrine have all had a global impact and propelled the development of human civilisations.

In March 2023, President Xi Jinping announced the Global Civilisation Initiative, which calls for upholding the common values of humanity, emphasising both heritage and innovation and strengthening international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

In June 2024, with the unanimous support of all member states, the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution initiated by China and other 82 countries, which declares 10 June the International Day for Dialogue Among Civilisations. This echoes the common aspiration of people from all countries for promoting dialogue among civilisations and the progress of humanity. In June 2025, as the international community celebrated the first International Day for Dialogue Among Civilisations, the ideas and propositions of the Global Civilisation Initiative have increasingly become a global consensus and have been translated into practice.

The beauty of civilisations lies in realising that we are different, yet we can still try to understand one another. Australia embraces multiculturalism, while China advocates the philosophy of “harmony without uniformity.” Despite our differences in history, culture, political and social systems, we share a similar commitment to peaceful development, inclusiveness and respect for diversity.

As long as we uphold this common aspiration, China and Australia will forge even deeper understanding through exchanges and mutual learning, just as eucalyptus and bamboo could intertwine their branches beautifully, koala and panda inspire our affection with the same kind of cuteness, and the sea breeze of the Southern Hemisphere stirs the echoes of ancient civilisations across mountains and seas.

In recent years, exchanges between our peoples have grown steadily, helping us better understand each other and bringing us closer together. Chinese culture has become an increasingly vibrant part of Australia’s multicultural society, and the Chinese Australian community has helped bring our two countries closer through friendship, understanding and exchange.

Diversity spurs interaction among civilisations, which in turn promotes mutual learning and their further development. The world today is moving toward greater multipolarity, economic globalisation and cultural diversity, and is becoming increasingly information-oriented. We are facing common challenges and critical historical choices that will shape our shared future.

China is ready to work with Australia and other members of the international community to jointly promote the implementation of the Global Civilisation Initiative, and the concepts of equality, mutual learning, dialogue, and inclusiveness, as well as the common values of peace, development, fairness, justice, democracy, and freedom for all humanity.

Dialogue among civilisations enables us to transcend differences and establish empathy, which will help people of all countries to learn more about each other, build closer bonds, prosper together, and build a community with a shared future for humanity where all civilisations thrive together.

The desolation of the word ‘ceasefire’

Vijay Prashad

Action in support of Palestine, Botany Bay, Sydney, 2024.

There are moments in history when words lose their meaning. Not because dictionaries are rewritten, nor because language itself changes, but because political power empties words of the realities they once described. The word ceasefire has increasingly acquired this desolate quality when used by Israeli and US officials. What was once understood to mean the suspension of violence, the silencing of guns, and the creation of political space for peace has become something else entirely: a managerial term for the continuation of war by other means.

In ordinary language, a ceasefire signifies an end, however temporary, to armed hostilities. It implies restraint. It suggests that civilians might breathe without fear. It offers the possibility that diplomacy can replace military force. Yet the reality experienced by Palestinians in Gaza, the Lebanese, and the Iranians has rendered this understanding almost unrecognisable.

Months after the announcement of the ceasefire arrangements brokered under international auspices, Palestinians continued to die from airstrikes, artillery fire, and military operations. United Nations officials repeatedly warned that the ceasefire remained fragile, incomplete, and marked by ongoing attacks. Human rights observers documented hundreds of Palestinian deaths after the formal commencement of the ceasefire period, while much of Gaza remained devastated and uninhabitable.

The contradiction is staggering. The world is told that a ceasefire exists, yet the people living beneath Israeli aircraft continue to hear explosions. The international community speaks of a transition toward peace, while military control expands. Diplomats discuss implementation mechanisms as families search through rubble for the bodies of relatives.

The result is not merely political hypocrisy. It is a linguistic collapse.

A ceasefire that permits continuing bombardment ceases to function as a ceasefire. It becomes a mechanism through which violence is normalised while the language of restraint is retained. The word remains, but its content disappears.

This phenomenon is visible in the way Gaza has been transformed during the so-called ceasefire period. Israeli military operations did not simply pause and await negotiations. Instead, reports emerged of expanding territorial control, the consolidation of military zones, and plans to increase Israeli control over large portions of Gaza. International observers noted that military advances continued despite the formal existence of ceasefire arrangements. Hadja Lahbib, a high-ranking European Union official, said on 29 May, “Gaza’s humanitarian space is further shrinking.” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that his army will hold at least 70 per cent of Gaza’s land.

The ceasefire therefore came to resemble something closer to a regulated siege than a suspension of conflict. Palestinians increasingly found themselves trapped within a strange political condition: neither war nor peace. They were told that the war had formally paused, yet daily life remained organised around displacement, insecurity, hunger, and fear. Last year, the Israeli government created a “Voluntary Emigration Bureau” to force the ethnic cleansing of Gaza. Humanitarian access remained contested. Reconstruction remained largely theoretical. Armed force continued to shape the reality of everyday existence.

This transformation of language serves an important political function. The modern management of the neo-colonies relies not only upon military power but upon the control of narrative. Open declarations of conquest have become unfashionable in contemporary diplomacy. Occupation presents itself as security. Collective punishment becomes deterrence. Permanent military domination becomes stabilisation. Likewise, continuing violence becomes a ceasefire. The manipulation of language is not incidental to power; it is one of its essential instruments.

When governments repeatedly describe conditions of ongoing violence as a ceasefire, they lower the threshold of what the international public is expected to tolerate. Images that would once have been understood as evidence of war are reclassified as unfortunate complications within a peace process. The vocabulary of diplomacy becomes detached from material reality. The tragedy is not only that civilians continue to suffer. The tragedy is that the mechanisms through which suffering is recognised begin to erode.

This pattern is not confined to Gaza.

Lebanon has increasingly become another example of the same phenomenon. The language of de-escalation, restraint, and ceasefire has frequently existed alongside continuing military actions, cross-border attacks, airspace violations, and periodic bombardments. Even during internationally brokered ceasefire arrangements, reports emerged of artillery fire, military incursions, and accusations of repeated violations. United Nations observers documented continuing instability despite the formal existence of agreements intended to halt hostilities.

The people of southern Lebanon understand this contradiction intimately. They have lived for decades within cycles of war punctuated by periods described as peace but characterised by persistent insecurity. Villages may not be experiencing full-scale invasion, yet aircraft continue overhead. Borders remain militarised. Reconstruction remains uncertain. Families remain displaced. Once again, the word ceasefire hovers above a reality it no longer adequately describes.

What emerges across Gaza and Lebanon is the normalisation of permanent instability. Conflict is no longer conceived as something that begins and ends. Instead, it becomes an ongoing condition managed through varying levels of intensity. Military force remains present. Political solutions remain absent. The population is expected to adapt to an existence defined by uncertainty. This has profound consequences not only for Palestinians and Lebanese communities but for international law itself.

The United Nations Charter-based legal order was built upon the assumption that distinctions mattered: war and peace, occupation and sovereignty, civilian and combatant, ceasefire and active hostilities. These distinctions were often violated, but they nevertheless retained normative force. Today many of these categories are increasingly blurred.

A ceasefire that permits routine killings weakens the meaning of ceasefire everywhere. A humanitarian framework that coexists with mass deprivation weakens the meaning of humanitarianism everywhere. Legal concepts survive formally while their practical content erodes.

If powerful states are permitted to redefine ceasefires as periods during which violence continues under new administrative arrangements, then future conflicts will inherit the same logic. The precedent becomes global. Military operations need not stop for political leaders to declare peace initiatives. Occupation need not end for reconstruction conferences to begin. Humanitarian catastrophe can coexist with diplomatic claims of progress. Language becomes detached from experience.

For Palestinians, this detachment is not an intellectual problem. It is lived reality. A mother who hears drones above her neighbourhood does not experience a ceasefire. A child living among ruins does not experience a ceasefire. A family denied the possibility of rebuilding its home does not experience a ceasefire. Their understanding of peace remains stubbornly material. Peace means safety. Peace means return. Peace means reconstruction. Peace means the absence of military violence. Anything less is merely the management of suffering. Perhaps that is why the word now feels so desolate.

It is not because people have stopped longing for peace. On the contrary, it is because peace remains desperately desired that the corruption of its language feels so devastating. The repeated invocation of ceasefire amid continuing destruction creates a profound sense of political exhaustion. People hear the word and no longer expect relief. They hear promises of implementation and no longer expect change. The word survives, but trust in the word disappears.

Language itself becomes a casualty of war. Buildings can be rebuilt. Infrastructure can be restored. Political institutions can be reconstructed. But when words lose their connection to reality, public life itself begins to decay. A ceasefire should mean that weapons fall silent. Until it does, the word will remain haunted by the distance between what it promises and what people endure.

A mother who hears drones above her neighbourhood does not experience a ceasefire.

Letters to the Editor
The Guardian
74 Buckingham Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

email: editor@cpa.org.au

Moronocracy

I was incensed that some commentators on an otherwise interesting podcast compared Trump and the buffoons and sycophants around him to those surrounding Joseph Stalin such as Molotov, Beria, and Khrushchev. Stalin and Trump how can there be any comparison? Stalin versus Trump is no contest.

Stalin was great in ability, in courage, and in purpose. He gave positive leadership and transformed a vast backward agrarian nation into a modern industrial power. Like many outstanding men he was a complex of diverse qualities.

Trump was a pampered rich boy who has turned his presidency into grift and corruption for himself and his family and his billionaire mates.

Stalin's cabinet had its ups and downs; Molotov the respected Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, Khrushchev who went on to lead the Soviet Union after a stint in Stalingrad during WW2, Beria who was probably an agent or asset of the CIA he doesn't score so well. Trump's cabinet is so bad it has been called a 'moron-ocracy', no comparison to the great men of the Soviet Union.

Denis Doherty

The cost of Israel's livestock slaughter in Gaza

While the media has understandably concentrated on the human casualties of the war on Gaza, it is worth considering the massive number of livestock and poultry destroyed through bombing.

Before the war, more than 560,000 people depended wholly or partly on farming, livestock, or fishing for their livelihoods. Livestock supported feed suppliers, slaughter houses, veterinarians, dairy processors, transport operators, and market traders.

A comprehensive survey is difficult as some organisations described the destruction as resulting from direct military attacks, while others included deaths caused by starvation, destruction of farms, lack of veterinary care, and collapse of infrastructure.

In 2024 UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported that 95 per cent of Gaza's cattle had been killed, along with 43 per cent of sheep, 37 per cent of goats, and 99 per cent of poultry. In 2025, the human-rights group Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor estimated that 97 per cent of Gaza's livestock, cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, horses, and poultry had been destroyed through bombing, starvation, disease, lack of feed, and other war-related causes. There are no reliable counts for cats and dogs, wildlife and marine life destroyed by the war.

The loss of millions of farm animals has greatly reduced the availability of meat and eggs. The destruction of herds and flocks has destroyed families' current and future earning capacity from the production of substantial quantities of sheep and goat meat, poultry meat, eggs, fresh milk, cheese and yogurt. Ordinarily farmers can earn income from breeding, animal sales, wool, and hides.

The resultant scarcity of eggs, milk products, and meat forced up prices. As livestock provided calcium, iron, and vitamin B12, their loss affects the health of children and pregnant women, and led to famine-like conditions.

It will cost Palestinians millions of dollars to rebuild their livestock herds. Sheep and goat herds will require several breeding cycles. Cattle herds and dairy production will take years to rebuild. Poultry flocks can recover relatively quickly if feed and infrastructure are available. More than half of agricultural wells and large areas of farmland have been damaged, as well as greenhouses, feed supplies, and veterinary services. Palestinians have borne the brunt of the economic cost of this war on Gaza and it must end now.

Graham Holton

Hit Chinese film highlights dialect/migration

The breakout Chaoshan-dialect hit film *Dear You*, inspired by the UNESCO-recognised "qiaopi" letter-and-remittance tradition of overseas Chinese, announced its global theatrical rollout.

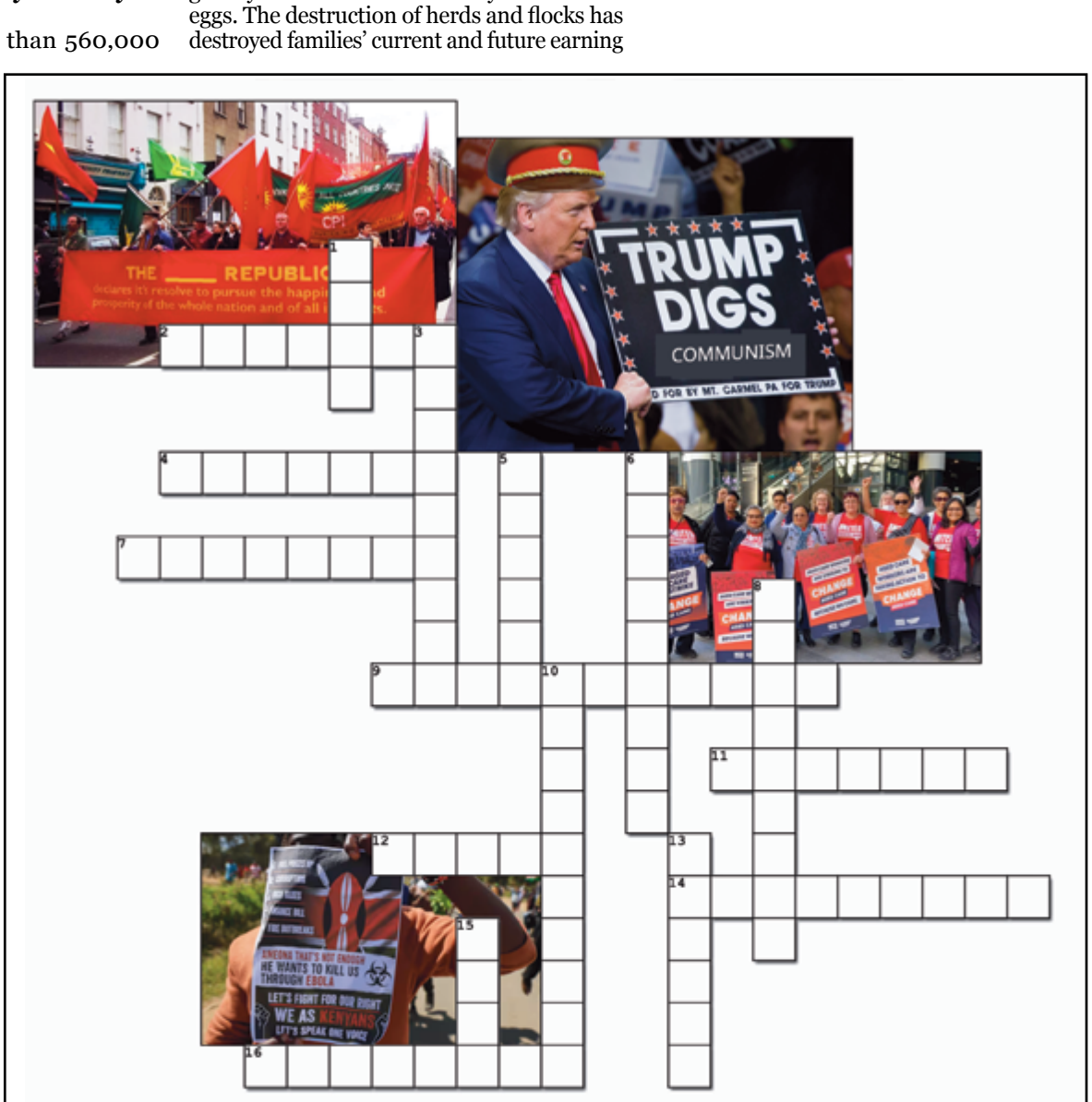
The film's first wave of overseas releases will hit screens across China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) and Macao SAR, Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei on 18 June, with further expansion planned for the US, Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, and other markets in subsequent phases.

Since opening on the Chinese mainland on 30 April, *Dear You* has pulled off one of the most remarkable word-of-mouth turnarounds in recent memory.

The story follows elderly Chaoshan grandmother Ye Shurou, whose quiet later years are upended when her debt-burdened grandson travels to Thailand chasing rumours of a long-lost, wealthy grandfather, only to uncover a half-century-old secret: the person she exchanged qiaopi with all those years was not who she thought.

Made on a modest budget, featuring largely non-professional local actors speaking Chaoshan dialect and telling an intimate story rooted in Chaoshan migrant memory and the qiaopi correspondence tradition, the film has climbed to a score of 9.2 out of 10 on the rating site Douban. Its cumulative box office has surpassed 1.5 billion yuan (AU$36 million), ranking second on the 2026 annual box office chart, according to data from China's ticketing platform Maoyan.

Global Times



Across

2. Country that has travel-banned two Israeli racists
4. cancelled by the MSO for opposing killing of journalists
7. 'Family Guy' character, also what Trump is in re Iran
9. P-word can get you sacked in US universities
11. Zelensky wants one, Putin doesn't
12. Disease making a comeback
14. US Congress voted to stop Trump's
16. Won't be allowed into a US quarantine centre in Kenya

Down

1. Trump calls it "clean and beautiful"
3. 'Disease of poverty' cropping up in the north
5. Unionist right to do this has been internationally approved
6. Not human, will decide who gets at-home aged care
8. Agreed without asking Hezbollah
10. ALP pretending to love second-hand
13. Nickname of mining baron, recently sued
15. KPMG has been oversharing this

Something to say?

Write to the Editor!

editor@cpa.org.au

Gaza: what's happening behind the 'yellow line'

Michelle Burgis-Kasthala

Recently, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has ordered the Israeli army to seize 70% of Gaza – a sizeable increase from the 60% it currently controls.

This follows an updated map sent to aid agencies in Gaza in late March featuring a new "orange line" demarcating the restricted area under military control – about 11% larger than the area agreed to with the "yellow line" in the October ceasefire with Hamas.

Israel's defence minister has also confirmed the government's intention to move large numbers of Palestinians out of Gaza "at the right time and in the right manner."

All of this is happening in a charged political environment in Israel: the Knesset dissolved itself on 20 May, creating the possibility of an early election in September.

Israel's actions are in clear violation of the 20-point Gaza "peace plan," which called for a staged withdrawal of Israeli troops and actively "encouraged" residents to stay. It reads:

> No one will be forced to leave Gaza, and those who wish to leave will be free to do so and free to return. We will encourage people to stay and offer them the opportunity to build a better Gaza.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has acknowledged as much, telling a congressional hearing that the peace plan "doesn't call for" expanded military control of the strip.

The 2.1 million Palestinians in Gaza are being squeezed into an ever-smaller pocket of the decimated, overcrowded territory. The international community is doing little to stop it.

Rally for Palestine Boorloo/Perth, 2023.

THE CRIME OF AGGRESSION

International law permits militaries to occupy foreign territory in pursuit of war aims, but there are two key limitations.

First, an occupying force cannot pursue a legal claim to the territory it holds. The UN Charter has clearly outlawed the right to conquest under Article 2(4). Breaches of this article are treated very seriously. This can be considered a war crime – the crime of aggression.

For Israel, this means its control of Gaza cannot result in a claim to sovereignty over any part of the strip. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) underscored this in its 2024 advisory opinion on Israel's actions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Second, any occupying military power must comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights law in a conflict. This means ensuring the welfare of the population under its control.

This has been the case in Gaza since Israel captured it from Egypt in the Six-Day War in 1967, beginning a decades-long occupation of the strip.

In fact, Israel's obligations as an occupying power continued even after it pulled out its troops and dismantled its settlements in 2005.

As part of these obligations, an occupying power must preserve the demographic composition of the territory it controls. In this specific case, international law prohibits the removal of a population (the Palestinians) and the transfer of another population (Israeli settlers) onto occupied land.

FLAWED PEACE PLAN

Despite these clear legal principles, enforcement of Israel's obligations will be at best difficult, slow, and piecemeal.

In its 2024 advisory opinion, for instance, the ICJ ordered Israel to withdraw fully from the occupied Palestinian territories, saying its presence is in breach of two key legal principles – self-determination and the prohibition against conquest. The UN General Assembly endorsed the findings and set a deadline of September 14 2025 for the withdrawal. Israel ignored the deadline.

The General Assembly can't enforce an ICJ ruling, only the Security Council can. This avenue is blocked due to the US veto power.

More worrying is that the clarity provided by international law – prohibiting conquest, genocide, settlements and forced displacement – is being blurred by the 20-point "peace plan" mediated by US President Donald Trump and the so-called Board of Peace overseeing the process.

Last November, the UN Security Council endorsed Trump's plan to end the conflict, disarm Hamas and establish a new transitional government system under the auspices of the Board of Peace and an International Stabilisation Force to keep the peace.

The ceasefire agreement was flawed from the start. The text, for instance, did not include any specifications about Israel's presence in the strip, accountability for alleged crimes or demilitarisation of Palestinian groups.

Since the so-called "ceasefire," the entire process has predictably stalled. Israeli strikes have continued, killing more than 900 Palestinians. Aid delivery is far below the needs of a desperate population. Hamas refuses to disarm without firm guarantees on future Palestinian self-determination.

'YELLOW LINE'

This stalemate suits Israel perfectly. Under the map of the ceasefire agreement, Israel was permitted to keep its troops in areas behind a "yellow line" encircling the majority of the population along the coast. This gave Israel military control of just over half of Gaza.

Then, in the area under its control, Israel began two activities that speak to its longer-term political aspirations.

First, it levelled entire neighbourhoods and hundreds of buildings, turning this part of Gaza into a wasteland devoid of inhabitants and any recognisable landmarks.

Second, on this blank canvas, it constructed an impressive array of military roads, outposts and barriers, including permanent earthen berms (walls).

This gives Israel the possibility of perpetual control of a territory devoid of Palestinians. If this status quo continues, it would amount to forced displacement and conquest.

Day by day, Palestinian Gaza is shrinking and a new Gaza is being forged through bulldozers and barriers. Netanyahu has indicated Israel may not stop at 70% depopulation and control. It may seek to preserve a large "buffer" zone in Gaza – as it is doing in Lebanon and Syria – or perhaps revive the project of Israeli settlement of the strip, which is in full swing across the West Bank.

All of this is happening in violation of international law and a "peace" plan that has no clear vision for a long-term solution for the Palestinian people.

The Conversation

Che Guevara, a reading guide

Che Guevara is an iconic and inspiring figure. He was also a dedicated revolutionary figure who thought deeply about the liberation struggles he took part in. The last issue of the *Guardian* highlighted his political career and contributions to the Cuban revolution and to liberation movements worldwide (see 'Che Guevara at 98,' *Guardian* #2193). This week, we present a short reading guide for anyone wanting to read the man himself.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC WRITINGS

Che Guevara Reader – Speeches, essays, and letters covering revolution, socialism, and internationalism. Highly recommended and very relevant to the ongoing question of internationalism.

Critical Notes on Political Economy Guevara's critique of Soviet-style economics and reflections on socialist development. Highly recommended, very interesting material on economic questions still relevant today.

Guerrilla Warfare – His most influential work on revolutionary strategy and guerrilla warfare.

Che Guevara Speaks – A collection of major speeches and essays.

CUBAN REVOLUTION

Episodes of the Cuban Revolutionary War – Firsthand account of the guerrilla struggle against the Batista government.

MEMOIRS AND DIARIES

The Motorcycle Diaries – His account of a 1952 journey across Latin America that shaped his political outlook. Popular because of the romantic 'on the road' aspect, well worth reading for the politics as well.

Back on the Road – Diary of a later Latin American trip before the Cuban Revolution.

Congo Diary – His reflections on the failed revolutionary mission in Africa.

The Bolivian Diary – Notes from his last guerrilla campaign in Bolivia before his death.

Rebellion from below threatens Bolivia's right-wing government

WT Whitney, Jr

For more than two months, Bolivian Indigenous and working people have been protesting the repressive measures imposed by the government of conservative President Rodrigo Paz, in office since 8 November 2025. Since he took office, it has been one attack after another against living standards and stability.

Pursuing Paz's agenda, Bolivia's parliament has eliminated taxation of the very wealthy. Presidential Decree 5503, issued in December, ended longstanding fuel subsidies and instituted privatisation measures. Fuel prices skyrocketed. Poor-quality fuel is damaging Bolivians' cars and trucks, leaving them with repair bills.

His government enacted Law 1720 in April, allowing small farmers' land holdings to qualify as collateral for bank loans. Via foreclosures, bankers and wealthy landowners would consequently be able to absorb more and more small bits of land into larger tracts to further mining and industrial-scale agriculture. Small farmers are losing protections for land ownership established by land reform legislation in 1953.

Predictably, a firestorm of opposition emerged in response to all these measures. On 8 April Indigenous peoples in Pando and Beni Departments, in the Amazonian lowlands, began a 966-kilometre march to Bolivia's capital, La Paz.

Already, the country's major labour federation, the Bolivian Workers' Central (COB from its Spanish initials) was demanding higher salaries, better pensions, lower gasoline prices, limits on privatisation, and President Paz's resignation.

Indigenous marchers and COB protesters assembled in La Paz on 4 May. The COB represents powerful miners' unions and labour bodies representing rural teachers, healthcare employees, transportation workers, and farmers. In total, some 70 different unions were on hand.

An alliance between the FSTMB, a federation of mine workers' unions, and the CSUTCB, a federation of small farmers' unions, was emblematic of the renewed unity of the labour movement against the common enemy represented by President Paz.

Highway blockades appeared in La Paz and nearby El Alto and extended along roads connecting the capital with Oruro in the Amazonian North. As of 29 May 100 points of blockade were active in six departments. Now, essential goods are not arriving in peripheral areas. This is essentially a general strike.

The government mobilised 3,500 troops and police to create a "humanitarian corridor" through roadblocks in La Paz, El Alto, and along the highway heading north. They arrested hundreds of protesters, wounded many, and killed four. Their arrests and killings failed to end the blockades, however.

Officials then resorted to ordering the arrests of COB executive secretary Mario Argullo and 24 other union officials on charges of terrorism and funding by narcotraffickers.

Responding to the pressure, Paz installed a new cabinet, cancelled recently-instituted salary increases for high officials, and proposed salary cuts for himself and his cabinet. He dropped the proposed privatisation measures and rescinded Law 1720. But the Chamber of Deputies immediately began to consider a revised version.

Paz endorsed a plea for dialogue from the Catholic Church. Even so, Bolivia's parliament on 27 May voted to allow a "state of exception," thus authorising the president to order the army into action against the protesters.

The emergence of Paz and governmental repression of Bolivia's majority population is reminiscent of the old order that prevailed in the country until 2006. Likewise, the new government projects a highly negative view of progressive political changes put in place after 2006 by President Evo Morales and his Movement Toward Socialism (MAS) party.

LOOKING BACK

Historical perspective is useful. Indigenous peoples, reduced to slavery-like conditions, resisted their colonial rulers. Indigenous peoples, small farmers, and workers would later take on Bolivia's own upper echelons, always given over to plunder and racism. As of 2012 41% of Bolivia's population identified as Indigenous. Agrarian reform in the 1950s instituted protection of small land holdings.

The Morales government advanced social protections and improved lives and living conditions. Income generated by newly-nationalised oil and gas exports paid for social programming. Then, the troubles began. Dwindling production and sales of natural gas led to reduced funding for both human needs and the purchase of essential imported goods, like fuel.

Additionally, Morales' problematic scheme for evading constitutional barriers to a third presidential term provoked much criticism.

A US-assisted coup ended his presidency in 2019. MAS presidential candidate Luis Arce won a surprising first-round electoral victory the following year, but Bolivia's economic situation worsened. Arce and Morales were competing for control of MAS, a situation which contributed to the party's miserable failing in the 2025 elections.

By that time, Bolivia's GDP growth was contracting; it had averaged 4% annual growth over 20 years. Imported goods became scarcer, particularly food products, gasoline, and diesel fuel. Foreign currency reserves, source of the dollars needed for imports, were depleted. Inflation exceeded 23%. An observer pointed to "the worst economic crisis in the last four decades."

Hordes of MAS voters backed presidential candidate Paz. His rhetoric about "Capitalism for all!" was both appealing and ambiguous, while his vice presidential running mate Edman Lara, a progressive, attracted more votes.

THE US AND ITS FRIENDS

Upon taking office, Paz restored diplomatic relations with the United States and invited the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) back to Bolivia. Morales, alleging dangerous interventions, had expelled the DEA and the US ambassador in 2008.

Responding to the current uprising, Secretary of State Marco Rubio commented: "Let there be no doubt: the US unreservedly supports the constitutional and legitimate government of Bolivia. We don't allow criminals and narcotraffickers to overthrow democratically elected leaders in our hemisphere."

The United States on 15 May joined with eight right-wing regional governments in a statement backing President Paz and condemning the strike.

It seems clear that US intervention is on the horizon.

People's World (edited for space)

India: financialisation of criminal justice

ON the heels of the results of five assembly elections, Narendra Modi was overjoyed in celebration. He aggressively asserted that "this is not just an electoral shift, but a change in the people's mindset." Since the LDF had lost Kerala and BJP climbed to office in West Bengal, this was the moment for ideological consolidation of this electoral ascendency.

Equally, Modi has a lurking concern. It stems from his ideological wellspring, the fascist organisation Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its most influential theoretician Golwalkar. Golwalkar was unambiguous in identifying communists as a principal adversary. That Communists understand inherent fascistic impulses and pro-capital inclinations and therefore are armed with the understanding to rally the broadest possible resistance is part of the RSS institutional memory. Therefore, this post-poll euphoria is understandable.

Marx's insights about the dynamics of capital have proved to be timeless in unravelling the playbook of Capital. Concluding his chapter on the genesis of industrial capital in *Capital* Marx wrote: 'Capital comes dripping from head to foot, from every pore, with blood and dirt.' He buttresses this with a quote from a worker and trade union leader TJ Dunning: "With adequate profit, capital is very bold. A certain 10 per cent will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent will produce eagerness; 50 per cent, positive audacity; 100 per cent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent and there is not a crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged."

The propensity of capital towards criminality has been a running feature. This became apparent in the early days of globalisation. The sharp spurt in crude oil prices initiated by the OPEC countries formed the background of hegemony of Finance Capital and its consolidation on a global scale in the form of International Finance Capital. Since US created the process of financialisation of physical commodities, it managed to stave off the impact of OPEC-initiated crude oil price hikes. The acceptance of such financialisation and enmeshing it with financial and other services signalled the onset of imperialism-led neoliberal globalisation. The CIA and other US agencies recruited bright young people who were trained to work for international financial institutions and also as consultants with some of the OPEC nations and other developing nations.

Recounting the experience of these foot soldiers who were responsible for manipulation of the economic order and establishing the hegemony of finance capital to undermine sovereign economic powers, John Perkins put together a thriller-like account called 'Confessions of an Economic Hit Man.' It is here that Perkins described this new order as 'corporatocracy.'

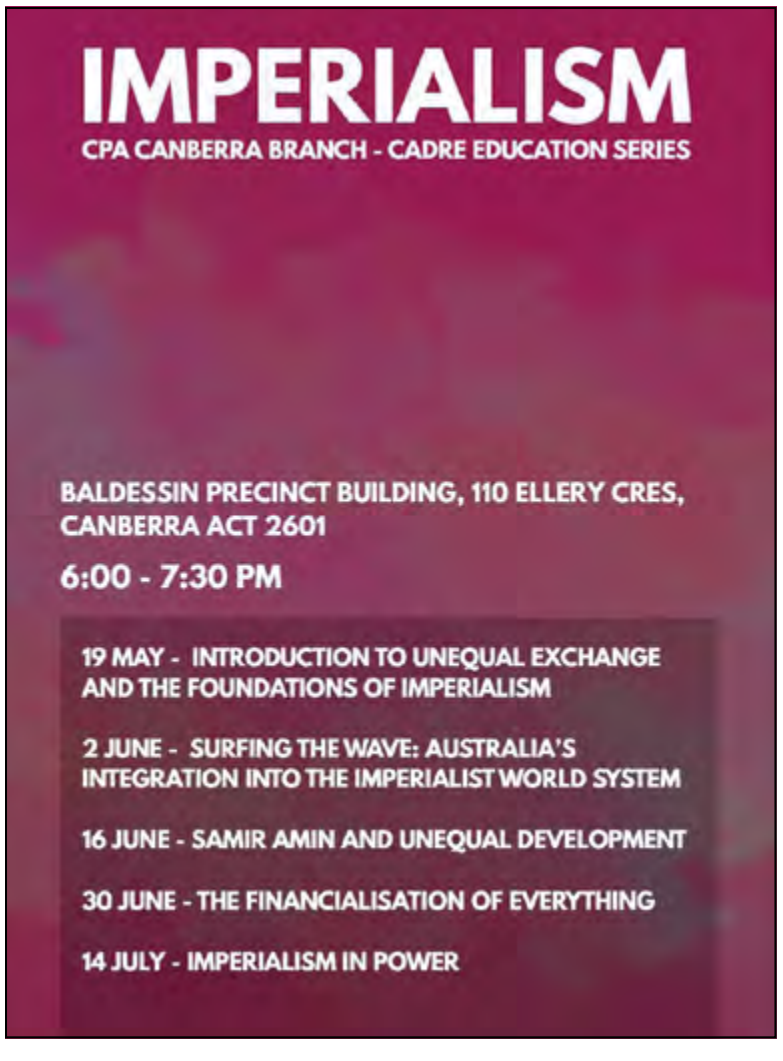
The latest example involves Indian billionaire Gautam Adani. Charges that were slapped on the Adami group by the US Justice Department are now being dropped. The circumstances are proving to be a brazen instance of financialisation of criminal justice

The reversal came after the Indian billionaire, Gautam Adani, hired a new legal team led by Robert J Giuffra Jr, one of President Trump's personal lawyers. *New York Times* reported that Giuffra's efforts on Adani's behalf culminated in a previously unreported meeting last month at the Justice Department's headquarters in Washington, according to people familiar with the meeting. Giuffra ticked through about 100 slides outlining why prosecutors lacked basic evidence, as well as the jurisdiction even to bring the case.

Giuffra made an offer. If prosecutors dropped the charges, Adani would be willing to invest $10 billion in the US economy and create 15,000 jobs, echoing a pledge he had made in the wake of Trump's election.

For Indians what is important is the fact that the Prime Minister's most formidable ally buys justice in the US.

People's Democracy (edited for space)



Venezuela healthcare in dire straits without Cuba

Venezuela's public healthcare system is facing mounting pressure as Cuban medical personnel continue to leave the country, raising concerns about the future of a healthcare partnership that has for decades been a cornerstone of relations between Caracas and Havana.

Cuban doctors, specialists, and other healthcare workers have been departing medical facilities across Venezuela amid growing US efforts to curtail Cuba's overseas medical missions, which Washington argues generate significant revenue for the Cuban government.

The developments are reportedly being felt acutely in public healthcare centres serving low-income communities. At the Salvador Allende medical centre in eastern Caracas, patients seeking specialised treatment have increasingly found services unavailable following the departure of Cuban staff members, including paediatricians, gynaecologists, ophthalmologists, and physiotherapists.

"Expelling Cuban doctors will not lead to political change in Cuba, but it will set back healthcare in Venezuela," said Miguel Tinker Salas, a historian at Pomona College in California.

The healthcare mission has long been one of Cuba's largest international programs. By the end of last year, approximately 13,000 Cuban health workers were operating in Venezuela, providing services ranging from primary care and dental treatment to eye surgeries and diabetes management, including in remote and Indigenous communities where access to healthcare remains limited.

Bloomberg has reported that Cuban authorities are considering reforms to retain medical personnel, including a proposal that would allow doctors to keep up to 95% of the compensation paid by host countries, compared with roughly 30% under the current system. The move is reportedly being examined as Havana seeks to stem the outflow of personnel.

The departures come as Venezuela's healthcare sector continues to struggle with the consequences of years of economic turmoil. The report noted that more than 22,000 Venezuelan doctors left the country between 2012 and 2017, while hospitals and clinics continue to contend with equipment shortages, insufficient funding, and growing healthcare demands.

International organisations have also warned of worsening humanitarian conditions. The United Nations Children's Fund said earlier this year that millions of Venezuelan children require assistance, citing concerns related to malnutrition, preventable illnesses, and maternal health. The country also continues to face recurrent outbreaks of mosquito-borne diseases, including dengue fever.

Mronline.org

An interview with
President Miguel Díaz-Canel

Cuba After Castro

FILM SCREENINGS

KAURNA YERTA-ADELAIDE
Saturday 20 JUNE 3pm
Fidel's, 66 Wattle Ave. Royal Park

GADIGAL-SYDNEY
Friday 26 June 6pm
NSW Teachers Federation 23-33 Mary Street, Surry Hills

BOORLOO-PERTH
Saturday 27 June 3pm-6pm
Perth Trades Hall Centre
82 Beaufort Street Perth

CANBERRA
Monday 29 June, 7pm
AEU ACT Branch, 71 Leichhardt Street Kingston

NAARM-MELBOURNE
Friday 10 July 6pm
Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre, 251 Faraday Street, Carlton

Global Briefs

BOLIVIA: Bolivia's legislature has passed a law granting President Rodrigo Paz the authority to use the military to clear roadblocks set up by anti-government protesters. The military has been used in support roles for anti-riot police during weeks of demonstrations calling for Paz to step down as about 100 roadblocks were set up across the country. Farmers, miners and transport unions have been among those leading the protests. The demonstrations come amid widespread unrest over rising inflation, low wages, and Paz's move to abolish fuel subsidies. (see page 12 for more)

PERU: Early results from the Peruvian presidential elections show a slim advantage for left-wing candidate Roberto Sanchez with about 50.14 per cent of the vote over the US-backed far-right candidate Keiko Fujimoro on 49.8 percent. The final result may take up to a month to confirm due to procedures for reviewing possible challenges.

US: President Donald Trump has had a hostile reception from the crowd at the NBA finals game between the San Antonio Spurs and the New York Knicks. Trump was attending the game as a guest of the Knicks owner. Trump watched the game from the owner's box but appeared to fall asleep part-way through.

YEMEN: Yemen's Ansar Allah movement, also known as the Houthis, announced a ban on the passage of Israeli-linked vessels through the Red Sea. "We declare a complete and total ban on Israeli maritime navigation in the Red Sea and we consider all enemy movements to be legitimate military targets for our Armed Forces from the moment this statement is issued," the statement read.

ROMANIA: President Nicusor Dan confirmed that the naval drone that struck the Romanian port of Constanta was Ukrainian but blamed Russia for the incident anyway. The drone damaged a warehouse and a ship after exploding near a major oil terminal. It was the second drone incident in a week and NATO also blamed Russia for the incident. Responding to the claim, the Russian president pointed out that the incident required a proper investigation and said that the drone was likely Ukrainian, given similar past incidents in Poland, Finland, and the Baltic states.

ILO: Palestine has defended its new observer status in the International Labor Organisation (ILO). The International Labor Conference held in Geneva on 1-12 June rejected the request of Israel – supported by the US and Argentina – to revoke the decision to grant Palestine observer status.

DPRK: North Korea has dismissed a US push for the country's de-nuclearisation as an "anachronistic dream," vowing to steadily increase its nuclear arsenal in the face of US-led threats. "The US assertion to backbite the status of DPRK as a nuclear weapons state has no legally binding force and no-one will be bound by the US unilateral rhetoric," said Kim Yo Jong.

MEXICO: Mexico City has set a new Guinness Record for the largest human wave in the world outside a stadium. Tens of thousands of people gathered for this event, which was a street celebration five days before the start of the 2026 World Cup. Guinness Record judges were present at the event to verify the numbers. In this year's World Cup held in Mexico, Canada, and the USA, 48 national teams will compete.

CANADA: Warehouse workers are celebrating after signing what labour organisers call a "historic and powerful step," the signing of the first ever collective agreement with US corporate giant Walmart. The president of Canada's largest private sector union Unifor praised the workers involved, saying that they "were determined to have workplace democracy."

DR Congo's Ebola cases hit 363, as Uganda reports 4 recoveries

Confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have risen to 363, including 62 deaths, according to figures released by the DRC government, while Uganda has reported four recoveries.

The latest developments were discussed during an online press briefing organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa, which brought together senior WHO officials and government representatives from the DRC, Uganda and South Sudan.

The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, was declared in the DRC and Uganda on 15 May. The WHO later designated it a public health emergency of international concern.

"The virus initially moved ahead of us. But we are catching up. We are already seeing progress," WHO Regional Director for Africa Mohamed Janabi addressed the briefing.

Janabi said six patients had been successfully treated and discharged in the DRC, while recoveries had also been recorded in Uganda.

Uganda's Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary Diana Atwine said the country had so far confirmed 15 Ebola cases, including 11 imported cases and four infections among health workers who treated the first patient. "Out of those, we have also discharged four."

All the patients who later tested positive had already been placed in quarantine as identified contacts, allowing health authorities to monitor them before and after diagnosis, Atwine said.

Uganda has monitored 620 contacts, of whom 270 have completed the required 21-day observation period and been discharged from follow-up, while the remainder are still under monitoring, she said.

The country has strengthened its contact tracing, laboratory testing, and emergency response systems through previous Ebola outbreaks, Atwine said, adding that laboratory results could be obtained within about four hours.

She stressed that Uganda had never exported an Ebola case beyond its borders during previous outbreaks.

DRC Health Minister Roger Kamba said expanded diagnostic capacity is helping authorities produce more accurate figures and respond more quickly in affected areas.

"What is important now is to have a good diagnosis," he said, noting that testing has begun closer to the epicentre, allowing suspected cases to be confirmed more rapidly.

WHO officials said the DRC is decentralising the response to the health-zone level, with local coordination mechanisms, rapid response teams and alert systems being reinforced in affected areas.

Janabi, the WHO regional director, said the outbreak had once again shown that regional cooperation was essential, noting that the first case identified in Uganda had come from the DRC after the patient crossed the border to seek care at a closer health facility.

"This outbreak reminds us that regional integration is not an option. It is essential," he said.

Medical workers clean up at an Ebola treatment centre in Goma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 4 June 2026. Photo: Xinhua

MISINFORMATION

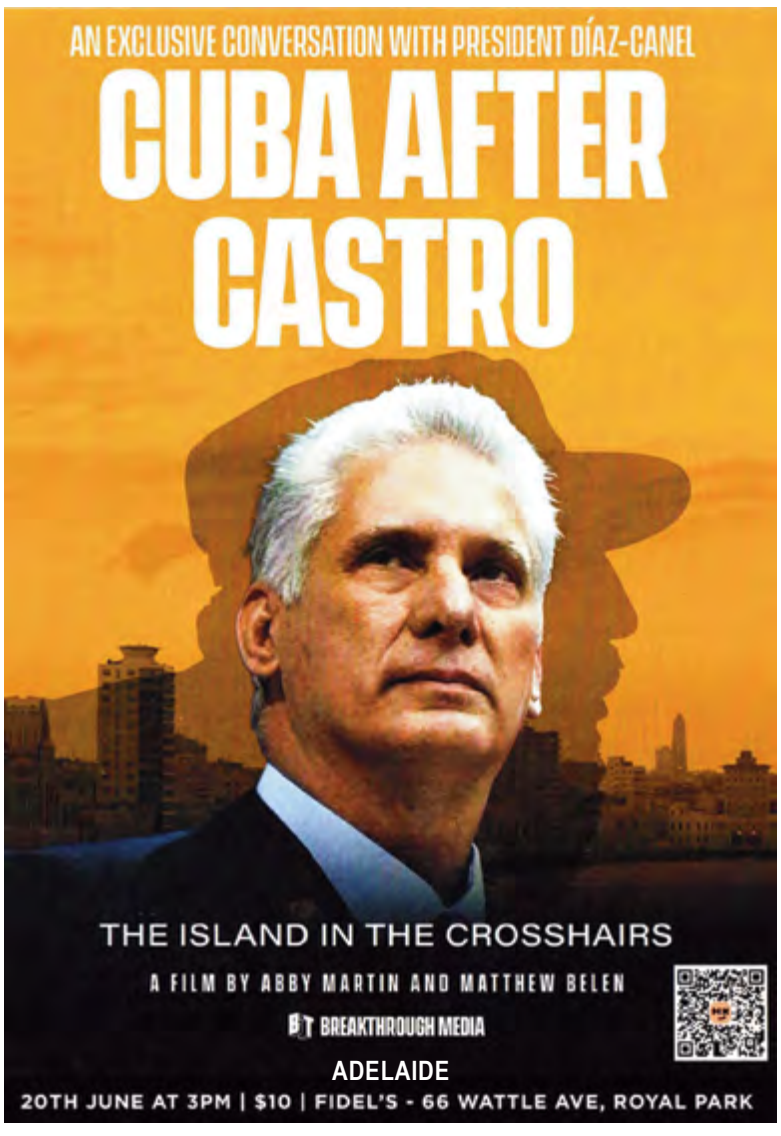
Janabi also warned that misinformation was complicating the response, saying health authorities were effectively fighting "two outbreaks" – Ebola itself and false information surrounding the disease.

He criticised broad travel restrictions and border closures imposed in response to the outbreak.

"Ebola is not an airborne disease. Blanket travel bans do not stop Ebola," Janabi said, warning that such measures could disrupt supply chains, weaken surveillance, and discourage transparency.

He urged countries to strengthen screening at official border crossings rather than push travellers toward informal routes where health checks would be more difficult.

Xinhua



Support the *Guardian* by donating to Press Fund

www.cpa.org.au/press-fund/

Former Colombian President rejects Trump endorsement

"President Trump, take your hands off Colombia and Latin America! Your aggressive policy has set the region on fire. The best response we Colombians can give to this abusive intervention is to go out and vote for the sovereignty of our country, led by Ivan Cepeda, who has all the personal, political and moral qualifications to represent Colombia as president," ex-president Samper said via social media.

The US president has publicly expressed his enthusiastic support for Abelardo de la Espriella, a populist politician whose record shows ties to figures linked to drug trafficking and paramilitarism.

This endorsement is a new expression of the manoeuvres Washington is implementing in an effort to retake control of Latin American countries. Over the past years, Trump has made similar statements seeking to alter the outcome of electoral processes in other nations.

Amid this threat, Samper's comments represent a new alert about the rise of far-right forces that have fully aligned with Trump's geopolitical vision, which includes neutralising progressive social and political organisations.

More specifically, Washington is trying to restore neocolonial states that are functional to a more aggressive 'Monroe Doctrine,' as in the cases of Honduras with Nasry Asfura, Argentina with Javier Milei, Ecuador with Daniel Noboa, and Chile with Jose Antonio Kast.

Juan Carlos Losada, a legislator from Colombia's Liberal Party, has gone viral on social media for an eloquent, forceful and clear statement rejecting far-right candidate De la Espriella.

In addition to openly announcing his support for Cepeda, Losada said he would never support someone who has such a long history as a dangerous and unethical person.

"We must prevent the fascist far-right from reaching the country," Losada stressed, emphasising that Colombia cannot allow de la Espriella to come to power, a person who seeks to weaken state institutions and implement an economic model like Milei's.

"Losada shook the Congress floor by publicly announcing his support for the Historic Pact candidate, Ivan Cepeda, ahead of the presidential runoff. Losada argued his position with a strong speech rejecting the contender Abelardo de la Espriella," news site *La Voz del Pueblo* (Voice of the People) reported.

"I will never vote for a misogynist, homophobic, sexist, nor for an animal abuser, nor for someone who promises to violate human rights and destroy nature," said Losada, who is known as a defender of environmental causes.

"The legislator compared De la Espriella's agenda to the models of Donald Trump, Javier Milei, and Daniel Noboa, and made an urgent call to centrist political forces to unite and prevent the fascist far-right from governing Colombia," La Voz del Pueblo recalled.

De la Espriella is one of Colombia's most controversial figures because of his long career as a high-profile criminal defence lawyer before entering politics. Over the years, he has represented a number of clients linked to major scandals. His legal work helped build both his fortune and his public profile.

A second source of controversy has been his public rhetoric and political style. De la Espriella has built his political brand around an anti-establishment, hard-line conservative message, frequently using confrontational language against left-wing leaders and rivals.

His comments during the 2026 presidential campaign drew criticism from human rights advocates, who warned that his inflammatory language could deepen political polarisation in a country that already has been in internal armed conflict for eight decades.

De la Espriella has also faced backlash for remarks widely described as sexist during media interviews, generating a national debate about his conduct and fitness for public office.

In an aggressive attempt to draw attention, he filed more than 100 legal complaints against journalists and media outlets between 2008 and 2019, leading critics to accuse him of using legal pressure against the press.

Telesur

UN denounces Israeli attacks on hospitals in Lebanon

Women and girls face severe violence, displacement, and health risks amid escalating conflict.

Anandita Philipose, the representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Lebanon, has denounced attacks by the Israeli occupation army against hospitals in this Middle East country.

"The population across Lebanon, particularly women and girls, is facing horrifying levels of violence, displacement, and human loss," Philipose said during the daily press briefing of UN Secretary-General spokesperson Stephane Dujarric.

Recently Israel has attacked a primary health care centre, one of the three public hospitals providing maternal health services in southern Lebanon, and a UN-managed safe space for women and girls in southern Lebanon.

Zionist forces have carried out more than 190 attacks on health care facilities, resulting in the deaths of 128 health workers and injuries to 332 others, according to the World Health Organisation. The most recent attacks have taken place in Beirut, where 13,500 pregnant women are displaced.

"An estimated 1,500 women are expected to give birth in the next 30 days," Philipose said, highlighting that another 1,500 women remain trapped in the south of the country without access to specialised care or safe spaces to give birth.

"What we have now in Lebanon is a health and protection crisis. Women and girls are bearing the brunt as they face extremely high levels of gender-based violence," she stressed.

Not long ago, Israel was included for the first time on the list of countries responsible for patterns of conflict-related sexual violence in the latest UN report, which warns that rape, sexual slavery, and kidnappings continue to be used as weapons of war and political repression.

Telesur

Something to say?

Write to the Editor!

editor@cpa.org.au

Subscription to ***The Guardian***

❑12 months: $150 (solidarity price) ❑12 months: $100 (concession)
❑6 months: $100 (solidarity price) ❑6 months: $75 (concession)
❑Special offer: 10 issues for $20 (new subscriptions only)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____POSTCODE:_____

Pay by ❑Cheque ❑Money order (Payable to "*Guardian* Publications")
Phone on 02 9699 8844 or info@cpa.org.au or send to:
Guardian Subscriptions, 74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
or by credit card: ❑Mastercard ❑Visa *$20 minimum on cards

Card# _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Amount: _____ Expiry Date: ____/____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Guardian

Editorial Office
74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, 2010
Ph: 02 9699 8844 Fax: 02 9699 9833
Email: guardian@cpa.org.au

Editor:
Floyd Kermode

Published by
Guardian Publications Australia Ltd
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, NSW, 2010

Printed by
Independent Newspaper Solutions Pty Ltd
Level 5, 219 - 223 Castlereagh Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Responsibility for electoral comment is taken by **T Pearson,**
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, 2010

Simplicity (chasing)

Many weasel words exist to make the unacceptable seem good. Hapless Defence Minister Richard Marles, having staked his reputation on the awesomeness of the AUKUS 'pact,' has been told clearly that the US can't spare any new submarines and we'll have to settle for second-hand.

You'd think this would be embarrassing, but Marles has told the media that "Chasing simplicity is at the heart of why we've pursued this."

Sure Richard. The dents on that car you just bought give it character too.

Recapitalisation (generational)

If you're throwing away an absolute ton of other people's money, there are a few things you can do to make it look good to them. You can explain why the things you're buying are useful. You can pretend you're not really spending very much.

Richard Marles chose option c: make it sound important and worthwhile without actually saying anything. He's told an interviewer that Labor is "engaging in a generational recapitalisation of the Royal Australian Navy," meaning he's spending a ton of working people's money, he knows it's a lot, and he doesn't want to go into details.

Try this at home. Buy yourself a $6,000 phone and tell your partner you're engaging in a generational recapitalisation of your communications.

Thorny

Nine entertainment writer Michael Idato just wanted to write about how fabulous the Eurovision song contest was and how great it was that an Australian singer was in the contest. On the other hand, a lot of people disapproved of Australia entering a song contest that helps Israel pretend to be a regular non-genocidal country. Then there's a pro-Israel lobby that likes Eurovision only because it helps normalise Israel. What to do? If you're Idato, just call Israel and the war in Gaza a 'thorny issue' without talking about it and carry on gushing about Delta Goodrem.

Political theatre

Anna Bligh, is a former Queensland Premier and long time banking industry shill. Mike Baird is a former NSW Premier and investment banker. The two like to present themselves as the ultimate in apolitical objectivity because she was once a Labor Premier and he was once a Liberal Premier, but really they're both from one party – the banks.

Bligh and Baird are wanting tax reform and they're worried about 'political theatre.' This seems to mean that it would be terrible if tax reform didn't go the way they want it. What if unions stood in the way of Bligh-and-Baird-approved tax measures because those unions had principles or (see previous Weasel Words) 'ideology?' We're getting out the world's smallest violin to play a sad song for the two banksters and their worries.

Wealth creation

Sounds great – there's more money around and the whole country is richer, Huzzah! Unfortunately the only creative part of this phrase is its use to make unearned wealth sound like people are out there working for a living and making something. Next time you hear 'wealth creation,' have a look at the people who say it and see if they create anything. If I get money from shares or property, I'm wealthy alright, but I'm not the one doing the creating.

Provocateur

Along with 'controversial,' 'outspoken,' and 'firecracker,' 'provocateur' is one of those weasel words employed to make horrible people sound like fun. Where would Barnaby Joyce and Pauline Hanson be without them?

Far-right Israeli racist and cabinet member Itamar Ben Gvir who filmed himself insulting bound and kneeling, illegally abducted prisoners has been called 'a provocateur' by the Nine papers. This makes him sound like a prankster, although none of the Sumud Flotilla captives he publicly gloated over are laughing. Ben-Gvir celebrated a capital punishment measure aimed exclusively at Palestinians by having a noose-shaped cake for his 50th birthday. That's more psychopathic than provocative.

Tear up the AUKUS agreement now!

Denis Doherty

The AUKUS pact is in the news now. Three items have made it prominent: the Budget, the Shangri-la Conference in Singapore, and the announcement of the AUKUS Public Inquiry. The government is still feeling the repercussions of the US announcement that Australia will be getting 3 second hand Virginia class submarines.

Rally to close US bases, Sydney, 2025.

EXORBITANT

The budget revealed that Australian taxpayers would be paying a massive $17 billion over the next 4 years without seeing a single submarine. That is on top of $10 billion paid to both the US and UK submarine producers. A short time later it was revealed that the exorbitant spend on submarines would result in second hand boats rather than bright shiny new boats. This put the government on the back foot in Parliament trying to explain what was happening.

Defence Minister Richard Marles tried to put the best spin on the situation by saying this move would make maintenance "simpler." The Greens, "teals" and independent MPs have renewed their call for a saner approach to Australia's defence rather than putting all our trust in the US and UK. The US is a declining empire while the UK is a shell of its former self. Trusting these powers to be part of our security is not dealing with the changed reality in the world today.

INQUIRY

The AUKUS Public Inquiry has cleverly put together a great team of prominent Australians from key sections of the population to judge the relevance of AUKUS. The Inquiry is headed by former ALP Minister Peter Garrett, Karina Lester, an important First Nations rep whose father was blinded by the UK nuclear bombs tests near Woomera SA, former Chief of the ADF and now Professor Admiral Chris Barrie, former Labor Premier of WA and Federal Parliamentary rep Carmen Lawrence, and Leanne Minshull of the Australia Institute. The Inquiry is holding its first sessions in Melbourne.

The first submission will be from Gareth Evans, well known as a former Australian Foreign Affairs Minister.

The Prime Minister has said bluntly, "AUKUS is going ahead." The government has shown no hesitation about AUKUS, but Ed Husic, former minister, and now ALP member for Chifley in Western Sydney has spoken out about AUKUS suggesting the issue be revisited. Instead, the government has sent out five Ministers to reject any suggestion that they are wavering on AUKUS. The Parliamentary party may be mostly rock solid but a lot of the union movement and many ordinary members of the ALP are more cautious.

AGGRESSION

AUKUS represents a dramatic turn in Australia's attitude and stance towards the region. Instead of cooperation, the approach is one of dominance of the region. A nuclear-powered submarine can sail to another country thousands of kilometres away and remain on station for 6 months without moving or being detected. Having this facility means that Australia is about attacking. Or at least in coalition with US or UK forces it will be in an aggressive stance towards others.

Submarines with a range of 300kms would be defensive, suitable for protecting this country. The AUKUS submarines are designed to be far away and offensive. The AUKUS submarines are much too big for our needs, like buying a semi-trailer when all you need is a utility.

The expense of the submarines is off the scale, at a time when Australians are desperate for housing, health, and cost-of-living measures.

What's wrong with second hand Virginia submarines? The boats have a propulsion system that cannot removed, the reactor is loaded with fuel that will last 33 years and cannot be renewed. The core has only a restricted number of Effective Full Power Hours (EFPH), it acts as a finite, non-refillable tank of fuel.

The available models have had between 11 to 15 years' service already out of their 33 year life. These second-hand submarines will require a lot of time in dry dock for refurbishment. The submarines will not be able to be used for long periods.

US industry is in such a desultory state that repairs and maintenance on the 2nd hand boats will be difficult and expensive, with spare parts difficult to acquire.

In 2021 an Indonesian submarine, a second-hand buy from Germany, had catastrophically sunk, killing all of its 53 crew. The submarine was found split in three parts on the ocean floor. If a Virginia Class sub sank in deep water with a crew of 134, very few would survive.

Richard Marles' defence of the AUKUS subs is that they can protect sea lanes thousands of kilometres from our shore. He hinted at the closure of the Strait of Hormuz being a reason to have such submarines. He didn't point out that the US has not even tried to use Virginia class subs to open the Strait.

SHAMBOLIC

The other part of AUKUS includes the proposed manufacture of SSN AUKUS by the British Submarine Manufacturing Industry. Insiders have described British submarine manufacture as 'shambolic.' The design plans being worked up would make their way to Adelaide where they will be made. Even if we needed the submarines, news from Britain does not inspire confidence.

While Australia gets a very poor deal at great expense the US and UK get nuclear submarine bases in Australia for no charge. The deal is we take their old subs at huge prices, we dispose of the waste they generate (how, Marles can't say), and they get bases in WA and later the East Coast of Australia.

The US/Israel war on Iran has taught us real lessons on how to defend ourselves in the event of a war against a major power(s) invading force. The use of a combination of geography, low-cost drone and high quality missiles in some numbers and good surveillance has seen Iran keep the US Navy hundreds of kilometres away from their coastline. We need to consider that we now live in a multipolar world.

INDEPENDENCE

The Communist Party of Australia's position on AUKUS is consistent with a long-standing policy demanding an independent foreign policy for Australia. What we have now is not independence, but an expensive and dangerous position as a vassal state of the US. AUKUS is the latest and most expensive manifestation of that status. It doesn't have to be that way. ✪

The expense of the submarines is off the scale, at a time when Australians are desperate for housing, health, and cost-of-living measures.

Communist Party of Australia

www.cpa.org.au cpa@cpa.org.au

Head Office (Sydney)
74 Buckingham St,
Surry Hills, NSW 2010
phone: 02 9699 8844
email: info@cpa.org.au

General Secretary
Andrew Irving
andrew@cpa.org.au

Party President
Vinnie Molina
president@cpa.org.au

Media guardian@cpa.org.au
amr@cpa.org.au

Canberra act@cpa.org.au PO Box 35 Dickson ACT 2602
Darwin Vinnie Molina darwin@cpa.org.au 0419 812 872
Melbourne Andrew Irving cpavic@cpa.org.au
Box 3 Trades Hall, Lygon St, Carlton Sth, Vic 3053
NSW State Comm Christian Goopy nsw@cpa.org.au 02 9699 8844
74 Buckingham St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010
Perth Elly Hulm perth@cpa.org.au 0421 113 343
PO Box 98, North Perth, WA 6906
Qld State Comm 0499 476 540 qld@cpa.org.au
SA State Comm sa@cpa.org.au 0411 805 356 PO Box 56, Royal Park, SA 5014
Tasmania Andrew Irving tas@cpa.org.au 03 9639 1550