



# MONTHLY UPDATES



## AUSTRALIANA (August 2024)



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- ★ **“Uluru Statement Advocates Urge PM Not to Drop Support for Treaty, Truth-Telling”**  
*“Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has heard from some communities not to walk away from truth-telling and treaty processes after speaking at Australia’s largest Indigenous cultural festival in the Northern Territory. Albanese welcomed treaty and truth-telling efforts on a state and territory level during his speech at Garma, in northeast Arnhem Land, but did not say whether the federal government would undertake either process. Instead, he told the crowd he was committed to makarrata—saying it meant coming together after a struggle—but what that looked like was yet to be decided.”*  
\* [link](#)  
**VIDEO:** [x.com/AlboMP/status/1819640661148422604](https://x.com/AlboMP/status/1819640661148422604)
- **“Whistleblower claims he was told to fabricate data for AEC during Indigenous voice campaign”**  
*“A private research consultancy working for the Australian Electoral Commission allegedly fabricated survey data purporting to represent the views of regional Indigenous communities during last year’s failed referendum process, according to text messages and documents seen by Guardian Australia.”*  
\* [link](#)  
**REPORT:** [www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/aug/20/firm-hired-by-aec-accused-of-fabricating-data-during-indigenous-voice-campaign](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/aug/20/firm-hired-by-aec-accused-of-fabricating-data-during-indigenous-voice-campaign)
- **“COVID-19 Vaccine ‘Prevention of Discrimination’ Bill Voted Down in Australian Senate”**  
*“The Australian Senate has voted down legislation that aimed to prevent Australians from discrimination on COVID-19 vaccination status. This comes after data from the government showed vaccine compensation has reached \$23 million (US\$15 million) with 8 percent of claims successful. The Coalition and UAP Senator Ralph Babet supported the legislation put forward by One Nation Senator Pauline Hanson, while Labor, Greens, and Independent Senator Fatima Payman voted against it.”*  
\* [link](#)  
**LEGISLATION:**  
[www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Education\\_and\\_Employment/VaccineDiscrimination](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Education_and_Employment/VaccineDiscrimination)
- **“All Commercial Baby Food in Australia Failing Global Standards”**  
*“A report released by the George Institute for Global Health Australia has found that most commercial Australian baby or toddler food products fail to meet world standards for nutrition and product marketing. The report’s authors say the findings should serve as an alarm bell for Australia’s policymakers. “Findings highlight that urgent work is needed to improve the nutritional quality of infant and toddler foods, particularly sugar and energy content,” findings in the report stated. Of particular significance was the increased use of pouches, with a 53 percent increase in the type of packaging from 2012 to 2022—with baby food in pouches typically containing high levels of sugar.”*  
\* [link](#)  
**REPORT:** [onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/mcn.13709](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/mcn.13709)
- **“New Australian National Science Framework to Prioritise ‘Indigenous Knowledge’”**  
*“Addressing climate change and transitioning to a net zero future while incorporating “Indigenous*

*knowledge” will be among the core approaches of the Australian government’s new scientific framework. Indigenous knowledge systems have been included as a key component of the new National Science Statement and National Science and Research Priorities. The new priorities replace the current framework, established almost a decade ago. Under the new policy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be prioritised in emerging technologies like the areas of digital and data.”*

\* [link](#)

**GOV. STATEMENT:** [www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-science-statement-2024](http://www.industry.gov.au/publications/national-science-statement-2024)

- **“Australia is being held back by record red and green tape”**

(IPA report)

\* [link](#)

- **“Small Businesses Losing Ground in Post-Pandemic Australia, Warns Ombudsman”**

*“Australia’s small business sector—traditionally a major driver of the economy—is facing a decline in influence, with the country potentially “sleepwalking” towards an economy dominated by large corporations, the Ombudsman for the sector has warned. Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman Bruce Billson points out that in 2006, small firms contributed 40 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employed 53 percent of the private sector’s workforce. Now, those figures have dropped to 33 percent of the GDP and 42 percent of the private labour force.”*

\* [link](#)

**REPORT:** [www.asbfeo.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/Small%20Business%20Matters\\_February%202024.pdf](http://www.asbfeo.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-02/Small%20Business%20Matters_February%202024.pdf)

- **“No Oversight Of International Nature Positive Agreements Yet Government Has 221,200 Documents On File”**

*“In 2022, the federal government signed up to the international Nature Positive Plan, which seeks to lock up 30 per cent of Australia’s land and sea area from development. In a report released today, emeritus professor of government at the University of Tasmania, Aynsley Kellow, details how this has been imported to Australia without parliamentary scrutiny or debate. “The Nature Positive implementation process has been marked by a total lack of governance. The federal government has entered into commitments with international organisations without the scrutiny of parliament because they do not meet the technical definition of a treaty,” said Mr Begg. Further, in refusing IPA freedom of information requests, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has acknowledged there are some 221,200 documents, totalling over 1.15 million pages relating to the government’s Nature Positive plans.”*

\* [link](#)

**MEDIA RELEASE:** [ipa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/240729-IPA-Media-Release-No-oversight-of-international-nature-positive-agreements-yet-government-has-221200-documents-on-file.pdf](http://ipa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/240729-IPA-Media-Release-No-oversight-of-international-nature-positive-agreements-yet-government-has-221200-documents-on-file.pdf)

- **“The Defence Of Australia: A Blueprint For The Next Government - Paper 1: National Security And Australia's Northern Defence”**

*“This paper sets out the big strategic challenges which are transforming Australia’s defence and security needs. Whichever party is in power after the next federal election, we must quickly strengthen the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and build key international alliances to counter our worsening national security outlook. We review key themes which have defined our national approach to defence since Federation. These include a strong instinct to define national security as part of a larger commitment to global and regional stability; a preference for powerful allies and an ability to work with trusted partners. We have always maintained small but relatively capable military forces but have tended to seek security on the cheap, falling back on our alliance with the US. Arguably Australia is strategically naïve. We can’t afford to let ourselves be surprised by the next major conflict.”*

\* [link](#)

**REPORT:** [ipa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/The-Defence-of-Australia-020124-FINAL.pdf](http://ipa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/The-Defence-of-Australia-020124-FINAL.pdf)

- **“Concerns Indigenous Truth-Telling Initiative at Risk Following PM’s Comments”**

*“Supporters of the promise of a Makarrata Commission fear Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will roll back support for the Indigenous initiative. The term “Makarrata” comes from the 2017 Uluru Statement from the Heart and refers to a “truth-telling” process and a subsequent treaty*

*between the Australian government and Indigenous people. The “truth-telling” process involves setting up a commission to investigate alleged historical injustices committed against Aboriginal Australians.”*

\* [link](#)

Laurence

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