



# MONTHLY UPDATES



## AUSTRALIANA (February 2024)



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- **★ “Native Title Lawfare Does Little for Struggling Indigenous Communities”**  
*“The term “free, prior, and informed” is taken from the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This is the real agenda: further elaboration of rights and expanding power to extract more rent from mining. If Aborigines keep playing this rent-seeker game, they will never escape poverty, and the culture that holds them in a state of dependence on public servants and land councils will remain.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/native-title-lawfare-does-little-for-struggling-indigenous-communities-5588563](http://www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/native-title-lawfare-does-little-for-struggling-indigenous-communities-5588563)
- **“WHO Pandemic Treaty Will Not Take Away Australia’s Sovereignty, Government Says”**  
*“The claim that Australia will lose its sovereignty under the pandemic treaty has been allayed for now after the government confirmed it will retain agency over its own policy decisions. Under questioning from One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts during a Senate hearing, members from the Department of Health and Aged Care said the World Health Organisation had no legal authority to force member states to adopt any of its recommendations. “Australia has its own sovereignty in regards to making policy decisions around health for Australians and our borders. I don’t think I can be any clearer,” Malarndirri McCarthy of the Australian Labor Party, representing the Department, told the Senate Estimates on Feb. 15.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/world/who-pandemic-treaty-will-not-take-away-australias-sovereignty-government-says-5588143](http://www.theepochtimes.com/world/who-pandemic-treaty-will-not-take-away-australias-sovereignty-government-says-5588143)  
**REPORT:** [www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/working-group-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-2005-frequently-asked-questions.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/working-group-on-amendments-to-the-international-health-regulations-2005-frequently-asked-questions.pdf)
- **“Government Shelves Plan to End Australia’s Connection to Monarchy”**  
*“In the wake of a loss in The Voice referendum—in which the Albanese government supported a “yes” vote—Labor’s appetite for another constitutional referendum has evaporated. Matt Thistlethwaite, assistant minister for the republic, has admitted that a republic referendum was “not a priority” and that Labor, if re-elected, was unlikely to hold a national plebiscite.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/world/government-cools-on-republicanism-following-defeat-of-the-voice-5561115](http://www.theepochtimes.com/world/government-cools-on-republicanism-following-defeat-of-the-voice-5561115)
- **“What Can a Nation Do When Over a Million Students Cannot Read Proficiently?”**  
*“The steady decline in reading proficiency has reached another milestone in Australia.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/what-can-a-nation-do-when-over-a-million-students-cannot-read-proficiently-5593351](http://www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/what-can-a-nation-do-when-over-a-million-students-cannot-read-proficiently-5593351)
- **“Tony Dennis Maddox on trial for alleged breach of Aboriginal Heritage Act says he didn't know the laws existed”**  
*“A West Australian landholder accused of breaching the state’s Aboriginal heritage laws wants cultural sites recorded on property titles alongside other conditions to alert owners to their existence. Tony Maddox has been charged with damaging a site associated with the Rainbow Serpent, known as a Wagyl to the region’s Noongar people, when he built a crossing over a tributary of the Avon River on his property near Toodyay, east of Perth. The 71-year-old could be jailed for nine months or face a*

*\$20,000 fine if convicted. During his trial in the Perth Magistrates Court this week, Mr Maddox said he bought the property in 2013 and checked all conditions on the property with the shire, through a settlement agent, and on the property title.”*

\* [www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-23/toodyay-man-tony-dennis-maddox-on-trial-aboriginal-heritage-act/103503366](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-02-23/toodyay-man-tony-dennis-maddox-on-trial-aboriginal-heritage-act/103503366)

- **“What Young Australians Should Know About the Green’s Housing Policy”**  
*“Prepare for a deep dive into the issues with banning ‘negative gearing’.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/what-young-australians-should-know-about-the-greens-housing-policy-5591519](http://www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/what-young-australians-should-know-about-the-greens-housing-policy-5591519)
- **“The Australian Editor-at-Large Rips into PM's Anti-Semitism Response”**  
\* [www.2gb.com/the-australian-editor-at-large-rips-into-pms-anti-semitism-response](http://www.2gb.com/the-australian-editor-at-large-rips-into-pms-anti-semitism-response)  
**AUDIO:** [www.2gb.com/the-australian-editor-at-large-rips-into-pms-anti-semitism-response](http://www.2gb.com/the-australian-editor-at-large-rips-into-pms-anti-semitism-response)
- **“Teals MP Endorses ‘Carbon Pricing’ Amid Economists’ Call for Carbon Tax Levy”**  
*“Teals Federal MP Allegra Spender has thrown her support behind “carbon pricing” for Australia after leading economists proposed a fossil fuel tax. Ross Garnaut and Rod Sims, who founded the Superpower Institute, propose a carbon tax known as the “carbon solutions levy” before 2031 that would raise more than \$100 billion a year for clean energy.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/world/teals-mp-endorses-carbon-pricing-amid-economists-call-for-carbon-tax-levy-5588405](http://www.theepochtimes.com/world/teals-mp-endorses-carbon-pricing-amid-economists-call-for-carbon-tax-levy-5588405)  
**PROPOSAL:**  
[cdn.sanity.io/files/1pv5uha8/production/2a523e61ee75fea78adf52863c1d756da358ebe0.pdf](https://cdn.sanity.io/files/1pv5uha8/production/2a523e61ee75fea78adf52863c1d756da358ebe0.pdf)
- **“Thousands of Jobs At Risk: Nickel Industry on Life Support Amid Flood of Indo-Chinese Supply”**  
*“Australia’s nickel industry is in danger of collapse as Indonesia—with Beijing’s support—ramps up supply, causing prices to fall sharply. The situation has forced mining giant BHP to write down the value of its nickel business to zero, warning that a full suspension of business activity was possible, placing 3,000 jobs at risk. BHP’s Kalgoorlie smelter is at the centre of the Western Australian (WA) nickel industry, with miners such as IGO Limited and Andrew Forrest’s Wyloo selling their raw nickel into BHP’s smelter supply chain.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/world/thousands-of-jobs-at-risk-nickel-industry-on-life-support-amid-flood-of-indo-chinese-supply-5587759](http://www.theepochtimes.com/world/thousands-of-jobs-at-risk-nickel-industry-on-life-support-amid-flood-of-indo-chinese-supply-5587759)
- **“NSW to Introduce Legislation to Ban Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration”**  
*“The New South Wales (NSW) government is taking action to ban offshore oil and gas exploration in the state. On Feb. 6, the state Labor government announced that it would introduce a new piece of legislation to amend the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. Under the changes, all sea bed petroleum and mineral exploration and recovery activities in the state’s coastal waters will be banned.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/world/nsw-to-introduce-legislation-to-ban-offshore-oil-and-gas-exploration-5582113](http://www.theepochtimes.com/world/nsw-to-introduce-legislation-to-ban-offshore-oil-and-gas-exploration-5582113)  
**GOVERNMENT REPORT:** [www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/nsw-introduces-legislation-to-protect-coastal-waters-from-offshore-drilling-and-mining](http://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/nsw-introduces-legislation-to-protect-coastal-waters-from-offshore-drilling-and-mining)
- **“Farmers Protest Against Land Acquisition for Wind Turbines”**  
*“Farmers, landowners, and concerned citizens have rallied in Canberra over frustrations aimed at the federal Labor government’s renewable energy agenda. During the government’s first day of Parliament, National Rally Against Reckless Renewables (NRARR) chair Grant Piper demanded an immediate halt to wind, solar, and hydro projects, along with their associated transmission construction.”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/world/acquisition-process-for-land-to-build-wind-turbines-is-unfair-farmer-5581488](http://www.theepochtimes.com/world/acquisition-process-for-land-to-build-wind-turbines-is-unfair-farmer-5581488)
- **“Activists Exploiting Indigenous Communities to Further Their Own Agenda: Senator”**  
*“Radicals are fomenting ill will towards communities with their actions, warns Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price”*  
\* [www.theepochtimes.com/world/activists-exploiting-indigenous-communities-to-further-their-own-](http://www.theepochtimes.com/world/activists-exploiting-indigenous-communities-to-further-their-own-)

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