



MONTHLY UPDATES



AUSTRALIANA (March 2024)



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- ★ **“90 Percent of Indigenous People Did Not Vote in South Australia’s Voice Referendum”**
“In South Australia, 90 percent of approximately 30,000 eligible Indigenous voters chose not to cast a ballot in the state’s Voice referendum on March 16, where voting was not compulsory. Additionally, more than 64 percent of all South Australians rejected a national Voice to Parliament, the second highest “no” majority in the federal referendum in October 2023. Despite this, the state government has allocated \$10.3 million (US\$6.7 million) over four years for the Voice, including \$6.1 million to establish and support ongoing operations and \$4.2 million to conduct the first two elections. Only Indigenous people were eligible to vote in the SA Voice election and only Indigenous people were permitted to nominate.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/majority-of-indigenous-people-did-not-vote-in-south-australias-voice-referendum-5617599
- **“Locals Argue Against Plan to Hand Over ‘95 Percent’ of Town to Aboriginal Corporation”**
“Locals in the small Queensland town of Toobeah—pronounced “two beer”—400 kilometres southwest of Brisbane on the Queensland/New South Wales border, have been surprised by plans to hand over “95 percent” of freehold town land to a local Aboriginal corporation. They claim they were not consulted during discussions between the Goondiwindi Regional Council and the Queensland Labor government to hand over the 220-hectare Toobeah Reserve to the Bigambul Native Title Aboriginal Corporation (BNTAC).”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/locals-argue-against-plan-to-hand-over-95-percent-of-town-to-aboriginal-corporation-5611714
- **“Senate Passes Australia’s National Digital ID”**
“The Digital ID Bill 2023 has passed the Australian Senate with 33 members voting yes and 26 against. Multiple senators took to social media on March 27 to complain that the legislation was rushed through the Parliament without debate... The bill (pdf) establishes a national digital ID system and creates the framework for a centralised platform for Australians to verify their identity online.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/senate-passes-australias-national-digital-id-5616038
LEGISLATION: parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/legislation/bills/s1404_first-senate/toc_pdf/2316120.pdf;fileType=application%2Fpdf
- **“West Australians Offered Payout If They Sign up to Digital ID”**
“Parents can get \$250 for each secondary student and \$150 for each primary student and kindergartener—provided they sign up for the ServicesWA app.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/west-australians-offered-payout-if-they-sign-up-to-digital-id-5610775
DIGITAL IDENTITY WEBSITE: www.digitalidentity.gov.au
- **“‘Remarkable’: Opposition Questions Decision to Axe Spy Chiefs from Peak Body”**
“The Albanese Labor government has some explaining to do, according to Shadow Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Simon Birmingham. His comments come after revelations the federal government removed Australia’s top spy chiefs from the National Security Committee (NSC), the peak decision-

making body for security and threats to the country.”

* www.theepochtimes.com/world/remarkable-opposition-questions-decision-to-axe-spy-chiefs-from-peak-body-5609933

- **“Australian Court Blocks COVID Vaccine Challenge”**

“A judge who previously provided legal counsel to Pfizer has blocked a legal challenge over Moderna’s and Pfizer’s mRNA COVID vaccines, stalling efforts to raise the alarm over alleged unregulated genetically modified organisms (GMOs), including high levels of DNA contamination, in the vials.”

* www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/australian-court-blocks-covid-vaccine-challenge-5608048

- **“Nature Positive Plan”**

(The government’s document)

* www.dceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/nature-positive-plan.pdf

- **“Think Tank Warns New ‘Truth in Political Advertising’ Laws Will Smother Debate”**

“The Labor government’s proposal to regulate “truth” in political advertising could risk becoming a tool to shut down free debate, a Melbourne-based think tank has argued...John Storey, director of law and policy at the Institute of Public Affairs, described the proposal as “nothing more than a brazen attack on free speech.” He said it was “fundamentally designed to shut down political opposition to the agendas of the federal government and the political elite.””

* www.theepochtimes.com/world/think-tank-warns-new-truth-in-political-advertising-laws-will-smother-debate-5607168

IPA MEDIA RELEASE: ipa.org.au/publications-ipa/media-releases/truth-in-political-advertising-a-disguise-for-elites-attack-on-free-speech-and-democracy

- **“Home Schooling Must Be Consistent With Australian Curriculum: New Laws”**

“The Queensland government has introduced legislation in parliament mandating that home education is consistent with the Australian government’s curriculum. This comes amid an almost tripling of students who are being homeschooled in the state since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Education Minister Di Farmer introduced the Education (General Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 on March 6, which includes amendments related to homeschooling.”

* www.theepochtimes.com/world/home-schooling-must-be-consistent-with-australian-curriculum-new-laws-5603182

LEGISLATION: www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/bill.first/bill-2022-052

- **“Australians ‘Dumpster Diving’, Growers Leaving the Industry as Supermarket Profits Rise”**

“Some fruit and vegetable growers have not been given price rises in 15 years, causing young people to abandon the industry and risking future food shortages.”

* www.theepochtimes.com/world/australians-dumpster-diving-growers-leaving-the-industry-as-supermarket-profits-rise-5603095

- **“‘Insidious, Abusive, and Deadly’: Queensland Criminalises Coercive Control”**

“...Four years on, Queensland has responded, becoming the second Australian state to criminalise coercive control. The new law creates a separate crime for the form of abuse, with a maximum prison sentence of 14 years for a person found guilty of manipulative behaviour designed to intimidate and isolate a victim, as was the case for Ms. Clarke. Coercive control has led to multiple murders stemming from prolonged abuse, as seen in cases where victims endure a relentless cycle of emotional, psychological, and economic abuse, along with isolation, intimidation, sexual coercion, and cyberstalking.”

* www.theepochtimes.com/world/insidious-abusive-and-deadly-queensland-criminalises-coercive-control-5602461

LEGISLATION: statements.qld.gov.au/statements/99847

- **“Nurses and Midwives to Prescribe Abortion Drugs in Queensland”**

“The Australian state of Queensland has passed a law that will allow nurses and midwives to prescribe the abortion drug MS-2 Step. Traditionally, obtaining a prescription for the drug in Australia requires a doctor’s approval. The drug, MS-2 Step, can be used to terminate a pregnancy up to 63 days from

gestation. Under the new law, the Queensland government is allowing more health workers to provide the drug to pregnant women.”

* www.theepochtimes.com/world/nurses-and-midwives-to-prescribe-abortion-drugs-in-queensland-5603089

MEDIA RELEASE: statements.qld.gov.au/statements/99859

- **“Australian Bank Closes 45 Branches to Become Digital Only”**
“Bankwest will become a digital-only bank, closing 45 branches in Western Australia and transitioning 15 to Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) branches. The bank is planning to convert to a digital bank completely by October 2024, closing or converting all the remaining bank branches it operates in Australia. Explaining the change, the bank claimed 97 percent of transactions are now completed digitally and only two percent of customers visit a branch.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/australian-bank-closes-45-branches-to-become-digital-only-5602289
BANK’S STATEMENT: www.bankwest.com.au/help/branch-information
- **“Australia’s ‘Destiny’: Prime Minister Says Nation’s Prosperity Lies in Southeast Asia”**
“Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has outlined a vision for Australia, saying the nation’s prosperity lies in Southeast Asia. The declaration comes as Beijing’s influence continues to loom over the ASEAN-Australia summit, and amid a move by Australian exporters to decrease reliance on the China market. “This is why we will continue to support your ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific and ensure the stability and peace of our region,” Mr. Albanese told ASEAN leaders on day 3 of the ASEAN-Australia special summit in Melbourne on March 6.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/australias-destiny-prime-minister-says-nations-prosperity-lies-in-southeast-asia-5601494
- **“World-First Recycling Tax in the Works for Australia”**
“A new recycling tax could find its way into Australian household budget amid ongoing cost of living pressures. Under the proposed scheme, from July 1, exporters of recyclables will be charged \$30,000 (US\$19,494) for a licence, and a fee of \$4 on every tonne of recyclables exported overseas. This is despite warnings from the council representing recycling contractors that the new legislation would mean tens of millions of dollars of extra costs will be passed on to Australian taxpayers, as well as potentially creating more landfill.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/world-first-recycling-tax-in-the-works-for-australia-5597446
* www.news.com.au/breaking-news/recycling-exporters-government-at-war-over-new-levy-set-to-come-into-effect/news-story/19464041dab1f81afbab9dcdf9bd52
MEDIA RELEASE: www.nwric.com.au/2023/01/09/media-release-new-recycling-tax-on-business/
- **“Some Loopholes in Australia’s ‘Gender Pay Gap’ Report”**
“Various media reports regurgitated the claim that a gender wage gap exists in Australia without defining the so-called “gap.” The impression is that a male nurse, retail assistant, or miner are paid different rates than their female equivalent according to their gender. This is simply untrue. All the report really does is compare the median earnings paid to employees of different genders.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/some-loopholes-in-australias-gender-pay-gap-report-5596522
WGEA REPORT: www.wgea.gov.au/pay-and-gender/gender-pay-gap-data
- **“Western Australia Invests \$900,000 of Taxpayer Funds Into LGBT Inclusion Strategy”**
“The state will also establish an LGBT peak body to increase representation for queer people.”
* www.theepochtimes.com/world/western-australia-invests-900000-of-taxpayer-funds-into-lgbt-inclusion-strategy-5593355
STRATEGY: www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook-Labor-Government/New-LGBTQIA%2B-inclusion-strategy-to-promote-equality-20240223
- **“Take a Leaf out of NZ’s Book: How We Could Deal With the Worker Shortage”**
“New research from the Institute of Public Affairs found that, while New Zealand and Australia both experienced a COVID-related spike in job vacancies between 2019 and 2021, only Australia has not recovered. The research shows that New Zealand’s job vacancies in 2023 were only 5.4 percent above what they were in 2019, whilst Australia remained 77 percent above 2019 levels. Rather than rely on

migration to fill job vacancies—net migration to New Zealand was half that of Australia’s on a per capita basis—the NZ government was the beneficiary of a higher labour force participation rate.”

* www.theepochtimes.com/opinion/take-a-leaf-out-of-nzs-book-how-we-could-dealing-with-the-worker-shortage-5593244

DATA: data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.ZS?locations=NZ

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