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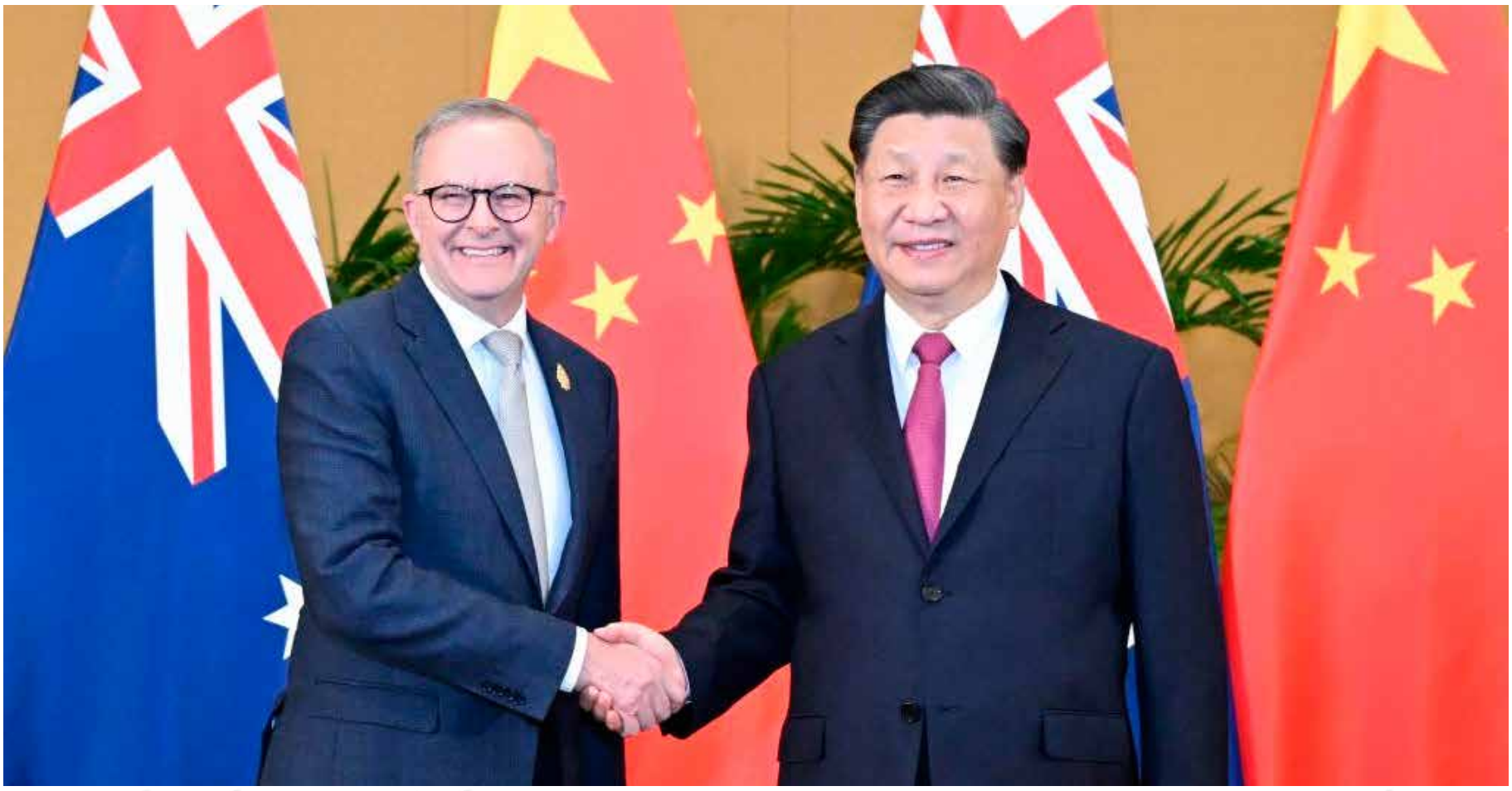
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# Anthony Albanese says engagement with China was 'constructive'

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is downplaying talk of any invitation to visit China, as he wraps up his summit tour.

Mr Albanese held a formal meeting with the Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Bali on Tuesday night – the first meeting between an Australian leader and Mr Xi in six years.

His trans-Tasman counterpart, Jacinda Ardern sat down with Mr Xi at the APEC Summit in Thailand. New Zealand media is reporting Ms

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## Trump announces a White House bid for 2024




Former President Donald Trump, aiming to become only the second commander-in-chief ever elected to two nonconsecutive terms, announced Tuesday night that he

*Continued page 16*

## Bill Gates warns Ukraine war is sapping Europe's foreign aid budgets

Russia's war in Ukraine is straining Europe's commitment to international aid and climate action, Bill Gates has said, as he warned that the world is on track to miss almost all of the UN Sustainable Development Goals its leaders committed to hit by 2030.

"This is the toughest set of challenges global development has faced," the co-chair of the world's largest private philanthropic organisation told the Financial Times, adding that he hoped that UK prime minister Liz Truss's new government would not



make further cuts to the overseas aid budget.

Collectively, EU countries contribute almost half of all official

*Continued page 16*

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# Anthony Albanese says climate change is a critical national security issue, as Australia backed a plan at the COP27 climate conference to promote “green” shipping.



PM: Climate change critical for our security

As delegates attend the annual climate summit in Cairo, the prime minister said Australia had an obligation to engage with Pacific countries on climate change.

“Climate change is a national security issue. That is something that is recognised by the United States, it’s something that’s recognised by our other partners, and indeed, our allies,” he told parliament on Tuesday.

“What we won’t be doing … is trying to score a cheap domestic political point, and at the same time actually set back our international relations.”

Talks at COP27 have also centred on whether poorer countries should be compensated for damage linked to climate change.

Australia signed up for Green Shipping Challenge

The Coalition had previously ruled out signing up to such a measure, and the government ducked the opposition’s challenge to take the same position in parliament on Tuesday.

The comments come as Australia signed up for the Green Shipping Challenge at COP27 after being invited to join by US President Joe Biden at a forum in June.

More than a billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions are released each year by seaborne ships, which rely on low-grade bunker fuel.

Mr Albanese said it was important to act on climate change given the past eight years had been the warmest on record.

“We can look here at the increased number of extreme weather events and the increase in the severity of them,” he said.

“We enshrined in law net zero by 2050, and we are investing in renewable energy. Climate change is a challenge for our generation.”

Efforts to halt forest land loss, degradation

Meanwhile, Australia has become a member of a new international partnership on forest-based initiatives to help combat climate change.

The partnership, led by the UK, was launched at the summit, and will focus on stepping up efforts to halt the loss of forest land and degradation.

Other countries to be part of the Forests and Climate Leaders Partnership will include the US, South Korea, Canada and Norway.

Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen said the government would work with industry to help decarbonise the economy.

“Our forests will play a crucial role in this transition,” he said in a statement.

“By joining this partnership, we will maintain the momentum of global action on climate change as we work to reduce our emissions by 43 per cent by 2030, and achieve net zero by 2050.”

Planning for future on energy essential

Australian mining magnate Andrew “Twiggy” Forrest called for long-term thinking when addressing spiralling gas and power prices, saying only planning for the future could prevent entrenching current energy settings further.

“If you aren’t thinking of your company beyond fossil fuels, there’s two reasons only for that – you’re lazy, or you have a vested interest to keep polluting the planet,” he told the ABC.

“I’m on the front foot here, giving fossil fuel companies a hard time. They should be using their super profits now to be going green, to be giving their consumers energy that doesn’t cook the planet.”

Mr Forrest has signed a joint agreement with Kenya to eliminate fossil fuels and instead harness the huge geothermal energy available in the African nation.

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By Mamdouh Sukkarieh

# Concern about using Facebook

No doubt Facebook is the most powerful platform of social media and social networking site in the world. In this article I will discuss both the pros and cons of the use of this tool, however, I will concentrate on the disadvantages of Facebook, as the advantages are well known for most of the people using Facebook.

Facebook is useful to the user as it allows them to connect with family, friends, work colleagues and even to meet new people, and also for business purposes to promote products or services. Facebook can also be used as video chat tool, as an image or video hosting site and backup account feature.

Talking about positives of Facebook, it's one of the best sources of information, entertainment and news, it updates the user with latest news and information as it happens. Generally, major news usually goes viral on Facebook.

On the other hand, the major concern and disadvantage of Facebook, is to do with freedom of using Facebook as means of harming people and destruction of their reputation by publicly naming and shaming them.

Some Facebook users seek to bring out their personalities on the Facebook pages to promote themselves and to obtain attention from others. Some use slander and defamation to undermine people's positions, others use bad terms and language. All this shows is a lack of sense of responsibility and awareness of the danger of using this space of freedom of expression, which it was not created for.

This phenomenon is unfortunately exacerbated in the Arabic community and has recently become a way for people to "show off" especially in the bad light. And as there are currently no punishments for this type of behaviour there is an Arabic saying "if you are not ashamed, then you will do whatever you want."

Privacy is another factor we need to consider on Facebook, it has to do with the availability of personal information, whether in the form of pictures, video or text, you should bear in mind the privacy of your personal data, because after they are placed online you lose all control.

Facebook offers many entertainment applications and games which engage users to a great extent. Also Facebook chat and Facebook video is almost addictive to some and they will spend the majority of their day on this social networking site.

One of the most prominent disadvantages of Facebook is the ability to create a fake profile, along with fake pictures to try to deceive and attract others. Then there is also the ability to pretend to be other people, such as high profile and famous people.

Everyone should be careful about fake Facebook profiles, though, as they are usually created by stalkers or spammers, so be cautious since not all online users are honest and sincere.

According to reports, Facebook is also becoming one of the major reasons for failed relationship and breakups.

In conclusion if Facebook is used in the right and proper manner with good intensions, it can be a powerful tool for marketing and networking.

# Fast renewables transition crucial: Bowen



Anthony Albanese has wrapped up his first G20 summit since becoming Prime Minister, calling the event successful and co-operative.

Leaders from the world's major economies have ended their meeting in Bali following two days of discussions.

Australia joined G20 nations in condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Mr Albanese talked up the nation's European links, commitment to clean energy and pandemic preparation.

He said it was the first time a statement on Ukraine had been delivered by members of the G20.

At his final day of summit talks, the PM pushed to progress trade deals with Europe.

He put his Italian heritage front and centre during talks with his European colleagues while progressing discussions on Australia's free trade agreement with the European Union.

Meeting his new Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni for the first time in an informal pull-aside, Mr Albanese discussed his connection to Italy and the strength of trade relationships that could be grown.

Ms Meloni was elected Italy's first female prime minister in October.

The summit schedule was initially overshadowed by reports of a missile explosion in Poland, near the border of Ukraine.

A leaders' statement released at the end of the summit said "most members" strongly condemned Russia's invasion.

Mr Albanese said reports about missile attacks in Poland, which killed two people near the Ukrainian border, were "deeply concerning".

"We need to have a full investigation as to how this has occurred … and then we should consider what, as an international community, is an appropriate response," he said.

He earlier met European Council president Charles Michel and European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen on the sidelines of the summit.

"Australia has such strong ties with Europe. Indeed, we have a prime minister with a name like Albanese and a large diaspora in Australia from throughout Europe," Mr Albanese said.

Mr Albanese wrapped his time in Bali by taking part in formal bilateral meetings with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The talks followed an emergency leaders' meeting involving the United States, Germany, Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Spain, Italy, France and the United Kingdom about the missile strike.

US officials later said initial findings suggested the missile was fired by Ukrainian forces at an incoming Russian missile, however an investigation continues.

"What we know is that Russia initiated a major attack overnight on economic infrastructure in Ukraine with no regard whatsoever to human life or to the consequences of its actions," Mr Albanese said.

Leaders earlier gathered at a mangrove forest in Bali which plays a crucial role in climate change mitigation.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has been keen to showcase his commitment to tackling the global issue and encourage his fellow leaders to do the same.

Mr Albanese said the leaders agreed their nation's economies needed to be transformed to deal with the impacts of climate change.

"The last couple of days has been extremely successful for Australia being able to put forward our position on the challenges which the global economy faces," he said.

Sergey Lavrov, who headed the Russian delegation to the summit in the absence of President Vladimir Putin, left Bali on Tuesday night.

Mr Widodo handed the G20 baton to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will host next year's summit.

Mr Albanese will fly to Thailand on Thursday for APEC, the third and final economic forum of this year's summit season.

# Australia Post apologises for 'unauthorised' sign in Adelaide's Rundle Mall post office




Australia Post has apologised "unreservedly" for a poorly-worded sign displayed in an Adelaide store that intended to advise customers that it was unable to take photos for Indian passports.

The ABC understands the sign was displayed at the Rundle Mall post office in Adelaide's CBD on Wednesday afternoon and was removed on Thursday morning as soon as management became aware of it.

A photo of the sign, which has been shared on social media, shows a large font with the words, "We unfortunately cannot take INDIAN photos", with the word Indian underlined and capitalised.

In a preceding sentence in a smaller font, the sign states this was "due to our lighting and quality of photo background".

The sign was met with a backlash by social media users.

"They might not [have] intended, but the sign is misleading and sounds like a racist remark! Stupidly worded," wrote one person.

"Racist signs are really not acceptable. Improve your facilities if this is really an issue," wrote another.

In a statement, Australia Post said it would fully investigate the issue and "will take appropriate action".

"Australia Post apologises unreservedly to the community for any offence caused by an unauthorised sign recently displayed," a spokesperson said.

"As soon as we were made aware, we immediately removed the sign and have spoken with the team member concerned."

It is understood the sign was created locally within the store, without management approval, as a way to inform customers that it was unable to meet the requirements of Indian passport authorities.

The ABC understands Indian passport photos are a different size to Australian passport photos.

'Inexcusable'

"While the wording of this sign is inexcusable, we understand the Indian Consulate had rejected a number of customers' passport photos provided by this Post Office," the Australia Post spokesperson said.

"We have reached out to the High Commission of India to understand the issue with the photographs, so we can rectify this urgently."

Australia Post said it was disappointed in the sign, which did not reflect its values.

"Although no offence was intended, this lapse in judgement falls well below the standard we expect from Australia Post team members," the spokesperson said.

"It's especially disappointing given Australia Post prides itself on its commitment to inclusion and diversity both across our workforce and within our communities.

Australia Post says a third of its workforce is culturally and linguistically diverse, and is made up of 130 nationalities.

# Home Affairs tells asylum seekers to leave



Refugees and asylum seekers have been sent misleading letters telling them to leave Australia under a major administrative bungle.

The letters were sent by a senior official at the Department of Home Affairs and purported to be on behalf of minister Clare O'Neil.

"Settlement in Australia is not an option for you," the letters said.

"The Australian government is strong against people smuggling and irregular maritime ventures.

"It will not allow any person who entered Australia by boat without a valid visa and is subject to regional processing to settle in Australia."

The letters were first reported by the ABC.

Hannah Dickinson from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre said it was unclear why the department sent the correspondence.

Ms Dickinson said the letters caused distress to people already living in limbo.

"We hope it was a mistake on part of the department, and that communication like this won't happen again as there are severe consequences for the community," she said.

Some of the letters were personally addressed to individuals, while others received a greeting: "Dear << INSERT NAME >>".

The asylum seekers were transferred to Australia for medical treatment after they were detained in regional processing centres in the Pacific.

Ms Dickinson said people had the right to be communicated with in a clear and humane way, which the department had failed to do.

Home Affairs was contacted for comment, but the department did not respond to the request.

# Keneally's son to fight evidence charge



A police officer son of former NSW Labor premier and ex-senator Kristina Keneally will plead not guilty to a charge of fabricating false evidence.

At Sydney's Downing Centre Local Court on Thursday, Daniel John Keneally's lawyer Paul McGirr mentioned the not guilty plea.

The 24-year-old constable did not appear in court.

He is attached to the Central Metropolitan Region and was changed in October of fabricating false evidence with intent to mislead a judicial tribunal.

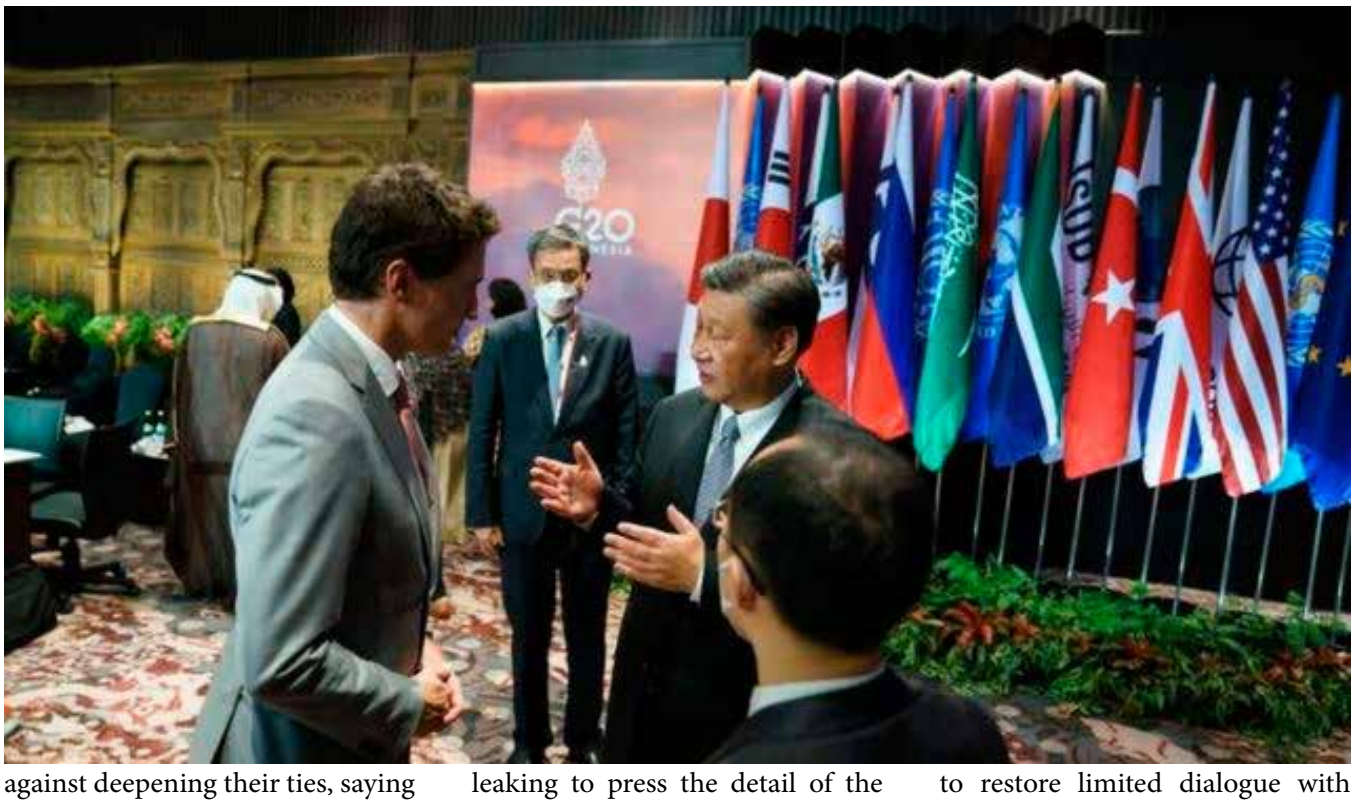
On February 24, 2021, Keneally allegedly faked evidence against victim Luke Moore. This led to an investigation by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission.

Once the criminal proceedings are concluded, the LECC will provide a report to the NSW parliament.

At the time the charge was brought, NSW Police said the constable's employment status was under review.

Magistrate Susan Horan adjourned the court hearing to January 12 next year.

# Chinese president confronts Trudeau at the G20



Chinese President Xi Jinping chastised Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at the G20 summit on Wednesday for leaking details of a prior meeting during which Trudeau expressed concern about Chinese interference in domestic affairs.

The two had a brief encounter at an event in Indonesia that news outlets were able to record. A television camera was behind a Chinese interpreter in clear view as the two spoke.

"Everything we discussed has been leaked to the paper; that's not appropriate," Xi told Trudeau through the interpreter.

"And that's not ... the way the conversation was conducted, if there is sincerity on your part," Xi said, at which point Trudeau interrupted and stepped toward Xi.

"In Canada, we believe in free and open and frank dialogue and that is what we will continue to have," Trudeau said.

"We will continue to look to work constructively together, but there will be things we will disagree on."

Xi looked around as Trudeau replied.

"Let's create the conditions first," Xi responded through the interpreter.

The two shook hands after the brief encounter.

Trudeau first spoke with Xi at the G-20 last Tuesday.

A senior Canadian government official said the two spoke about Russia's invasion of Ukraine, North Korea and climate change, and that Trudeau also raised "our serious concerns around interference activities in Canada."

The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorised to speak publicly about the matter.

Asked later at a news conference about the confrontation, Trudeau said "not every conversation is always going to be easy, but it's extremely important that we continue to stand up for the things that are important for Canadians."

Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly also said she discussed Chinese interference with her Chinese counterpart at the G20.

Joly remarked last week that China is an increasingly disruptive, global power and warned businesses against deepening their ties, saying there were "geopolitical risks".

Canadian police charged a Hydro-Québec employee on Monday with espionage for allegedly sending trade secrets to China.

And Beijing's ties with Ottawa nosedived after Canadian authorities arrested a top executive from Chinese tech giant Huawei who had been charged with fraud by the US.

China jailed two Canadians shortly after Canada arrested Meng Wanzhou, Huawei Technologies' chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder, on a US extradition request.

They were sent back to Canada last year, the same day Meng returned to China after reaching a deal with US authorities in her case.

Many countries labelled China's action "hostage politics," while China has described the charges against Huawei and Meng as a politically motivated attempt to hold back China's economic and technological development.

Canada has banned wireless carriers from installing Huawei equipment in its high-speed 5G networks, joining allies in shunning the company that has close links with the ruling Communist Party and its military wing, the People's Liberation Army.

Guy Saint-Jacques, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said he thinks Xi purposely berated Trudeau in front of the camera.

"When you look at him, he is red in the face, he is moving his arms," Saint-Jacques said.

"He looks agitated. Clearly, he was not pleased with Trudeau for leaking to press the detail of the meeting. Interesting he said it's not the way the meeting went."

Saint-Jacques also noted that Xi's translation was interrupted by Trudeau and that Xi looked annoyed by that.

"The prime minister wanted to reply and probably knew he wouldn't have time, that after Xi delivered his tirade he would leave," Saint-Jacques said.

"It's clear that Xi has not much regard for the prime minister. It shows it will be very difficult to restore limited dialogue with China."

Saint-Jacques said Xi likely wanted to send a message to Trudeau that Canada won't dictate the terms of the relationship and that Trudeau had better take notice.

The former ambassador said it was as if Xi was saying, "You have to smarten up if you want to maintain any kind of relationship with us."

"It's very unusual to see Xi Jinping engaging in this kind of public exercise to criticize someone," Saint-Jacques added.

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## More ultra-fast NBN services now ready for order in South-West Sydney

Eligible residential homes and businesses in parts of Leppington, Bringelly, Rossmore, Austral, Kemps Creek, Catherine Field, Denham Court, Gledswood Hills and Gregory Hills can now place an order to upgrade their NBN connection to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP).

These upgrades will be available on demand where a customer in an eligible premises seeks a higher speed service through their Retail Service Provider.

This will allow residents and businesses to take advantage of the faster speeds which are increasingly important in a digital society and economy.

To further expand the benefits of fibre connections, the Albanese Government's 2022-23 Budget also has invested $2.4 billion to enable an additional 1.5 million premises to transition from Fibre to the Node (FTTN) to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) by 2025 – over 660,000 of which will be in regional areas.

As a result of the Albanese Government's investment to enable the NBN's full potential:

- Close to 90 per cent of the NBN fixed-line footprint will have access to plans based on wholesale speeds of 500Mbps to close to gigabit speeds.
- Around 80 per cent of all regional and remote premises will have access to plans based on wholesale speeds of 100 Mbps or more by late 2025. This was estimated at 33 per cent in March 2022.
- 93 per cent of all Australian homes and businesses will have access to plans based on wholesale speeds of 100 Mbps or more.

For more information on upgrade eligibility, visit www.nbn.com.au/fibreupgrade.

# Top travel trends for 2023: The future of travel



The latest travel trends for 2023 have dropped, and while there's a disappointing lack of jet packs, hoverboards and flying cars, there's plenty to excite futurists.

Travel technology company Amadeus has revealed five new developments that will shape travel next year.

"The world used to predict technology's impact on travel in an entirely physical way, visualising ever bigger and faster modes of transport," Amadeus vice president Daniel Batchelor said.

"The future is now here, and it looks very different.

"People want to reduce their impact on the planet, while putting human relationships and wider society first.

"In this exciting new reality technology is enabling us to reach these goals."

A new kind of travel agent

The metaverse will allow travellers to explore a destination before they arrive or relive the holiday experience once they leave.

There's the potential for better pre-trip assistance, like booking flights or meeting a travel agent in a Second Life-type environment.

Walt Disney Co. plans to create a real-world theme park ride that incorporates a parallel 3D virtual-world experience.

And Seoul is blazing a trail with its plans to go "meta" by 2023, with a platform titled "Metaverse Seoul".

Qatar Airways recently announced Qverse with a MetaHuman cabin crew, providing an immersive experience to tour, navigate and check in at Hamad International Airport.

Smile for your seat

Biometrics will help create a smooth travel payment experience.

Biometric payments – via ApplePay and GooglePay – have gone mainstream for retail. Next year travel will likely take biometric payments to the next level.

Airports already use biometrics for travel document identification, so the logical next step is to leverage this identity check for any payments travellers make during their trips.

Suppose a traveller uses biometrics to check in, drop off luggage, and board the plane. In that case, these identity checks could double up to cover payments they make while travelling, like adding an in-flight meal.

Leave the bags at home

Hotels will offer travellers more amenities so they can travel lighter.

A combination of customers becoming more conscious of their carbon footprint and the cost of checked-in luggage is slimming down suitcases.

Hotels and resorts are increasingly hiring out bulky items to travellers, such as sports equipment and workout clothes. Many do so from local suppliers to be all the more popular with tourists.

Working from roam

Remote workers are embracing the nomadic lifestyle, migrating to different locations as "work from anywhere" policies become the norm.

Amadeus predicts that workers will opt to spend time with friends and family in their domestic market or might spend a month working abroad.

Bonding business breaks

Over the past few years, many companies have introduced work-from-anywhere policies.

With this has come the challenge of team bonding and collaboration.

As a result, there's been an uptick in "internal travel" plans, where teams are brought together to strengthen relationships.

# Elon Musk continues to purge key Twitter staff



Twitter's new owner Elon Musk is further gutting the teams that battle misinformation on the social media platform, with outsourced moderators the latest to learn they are out of a job.

Twitter and other big social media firms have relied heavily on contractors to track hate and other harmful content.

But many of those content watchdogs have now headed out the door, first when Twitter fired much of its full-time workforce by email on November 4, and now as it moves to eliminate an untold number of contract jobs.

Melissa Ingle, who worked at Twitter as a contractor for more than a year, was one of a number of contractors who said they were terminated without notice on Saturday.

She said she was concerned there would be an increase in abuse on Twitter with the number of workers leaving.

"I love the platform and I really enjoyed working at the company and trying to make it better and I'm just really fearful of what's going to slip through the cracks," she said on Sunday.

Ms Ingle, a data scientist, said she worked on the data and monitoring arm of Twitter's civic integrity team. Her job involved writing algorithms to find political misinformation on the platform in countries including the US, Brazil, Japan and Argentina.

Content moderation expert Sarah Roberts, an associate professor at the University of California in Los Angeles, said in a tweet on Sunday 3000-plus "contractor employees of Twitter were canned last night".

Twitter hasn't said how many contract workers it cut. The company gutted its communications department and hasn't responded to media requests for information since Mr Musk took over.

Contractors also do other jobs to help keep Twitter running,

"All contractors are not content moderation agents," Ms Roberts said.

"Contractors [fulfil] many key roles inside the company but almost all moderation agents are contractors."

Billionaire Tesla CEO Musk bought Twitter for $US44 billion ($A66 billion) in late October and dismissed its board of directors and top executives but assured civil rights groups and advertisers the platform could continue tamping down hate.

That message was reiterated by Twitter's then-head of content moderation Yoel Roth, who tweeted that the November 4 layoffs only affected 15 per cent of the company's Trust & Safety organisation (as opposed to 50 per cent cuts company-wide), "with our front-line moderation staff experiencing the least impact".

Mr Roth has since resigned from the company, joining an exodus of high-level leaders who were tasked with privacy protection, cybersecurity and complying with regulations.

# Kia EV6 electric vehicle wins Carsales' car of the year



An electric vehicle has been named Australia's car of the year, beating a competitive line-up of petrol, diesel and other electric cars for the title.

The Kia EV6, a battery-powered SUV, won the title from Carsales on Wednesday, defeating a field of 12 vehicles in what one judge said should prove a point to "anyone who doubts the ability of EVs to be engaging to drive".

The car is the second electric vehicle to take out the top title after the Hyundai Ioniq 5 won the award in 2021.

Carsales editor Mike Sinclair said top cars were chosen in an exacting process that began with 30 vehicles, saw them narrowed down to 12 finalists, and judged on "key cost-to-own measures" by RedBook.

Measures included the ticket price, fuel or electricity usage, standard inclusions, and service and warranty costs over three years.

Sinclair said the opinion of 10 judges accounted for half the scores awarded to each vehicle, and five judges ranked the Kia electric SUV in top place.

The vehicle, he said, had a "great mix of performance and practicality," and demonstrated cutting-edge technology for which electric vehicles were becoming known.

"Increasingly, EVs are driving innovation in the automotive space," he said.

"That's where most manufacturers are putting the lion's share of their development money. It's because markets like Europe are going to an all-EV platform."

Carsales chief car-of-the-year judge Marton Pettendy said the Kia EV6 had earned its place for accurate steering, high performance, "strong tech and safety credentials" and could silence some electric vehicle critics.

"Anyone who doubts the ability of EVs to be engaging to drive, intuitive to operate and user-friendly in all manner of environments needs to drive the Kia EV6," he said.

"The Kia EV6 isn't a cheap car but the lowest cost of ownership over three years suggests EV6 buyers will recoup a lot more of their initial outlay over the life of the car compared to other vehicles."

The Kia EV6 starts at $72,590 plus on-road costs in Australia.

A lower priced petrol-powered vehicle, the Cupra Formentor ($50,690), won second place in the Carsales contest, followed by luxury electric car, the Genesis GV60 ($103,700).

Sinclair said the contest winners would not suit every driver but were about providing guidance.

"It's about giving consumers a starting point," he said. "With the car of the year, we hope we can give people a shortlist they can use."

# World Cup Qatar 2022: Full list of 26-man squads playing in FIFA tournament




The FIFA World Cup 2022 is just days away and while final preparations are underway in Qatar nations across the globe have named their 26-man squads for football's greatest tournament.

The World Cup will run from November 20 until December 18 and there will be 64 matches played during the tournament, will the 80,000-capacity Lusail Stadium to host the World Cup 2022 final On December 18.

There are eight groups in the World Cup; Group A, which consists of Qatar, Ecuador, Senegal, Netherlands, Group B, which consists of England, Iran, USA, Wales, Group C which consists of Argentina, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Poland, Group D which consists of France, Australia, Denmark, Tunisia, Group E which consists of Spain, Costa Rica, Germany, Japan, Group F which consists of Belgium, Canada, Morocco, Croatia, Group G which consists of Brazil, Serbia, Switzerland, Cameroon and Group H - featuring Portugal, Ghana, Uruguay, South Korea. Following is a list of players who have been called up for the World Cup.

AUSTRALIA

Experienced central defender Trent Sainsbury was a surprise omission while teenage supersub Garang Kuol and former Scotland international Jason Cummings were included.

Goalkeepers: Mat Ryan (FC Copenhagen), Danny Vukovic (Central Coast Mariners), Andrew Redmayne (Sydney FC)

Defenders: Harry Souttar (Stoke City), Milos Degenek (Columbus Crew), Bailey Wright (Sunderland), Thomas Deng (Albirex Niigata), Fran Karacic (Brescia), Nathaniel Atkinson (Heart of Midlothian), Aziz Behich (Dundee United), Kye Rowles (Heart of Midlothian), Joel King (Odense Boldklub).

Midfielders: Aaron Mooy (Celtic), Jackson Irvine (FC St. Pauli), Ajdin Hrustic (Hellas Verona), Cameron Devlin (Heart of Midlothian), Riley McGree (Middlesbrough), Keanu Baccus (St Mirren).

Forwards: Jamie Maclaren (Melbourne City), Mitchell Duke (Fagiano Okayama), Jason Cummings (Central Coast Mariners), Garang Kuol (Central Coast Mariners), Awer Mabil (Cadiz), Mathew Leckie (Melbourne City), Craig Goodwin (Adelaide United), Martin Boyle (Hibernian).

# Novak Djokovic to be granted visa for Australian Open



Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic will be granted a visa to compete in the looming Australian Open, according to multiple reports.

Djokovic is serving an automatic three-year ban from Australia after being dramatically deported on the eve of the 2022 Melbourne grand slam for trying to enter the country while not vaccinated against COVID-19.

There were multiple media reports that Immigration Minister Andrew Giles had overturned that ban, and would grant Djokovic a visa to return to Australia for the January tournament.

While the vaccine mandate is no longer an obstacle for the former world No.1, Djokovic's lawyers are still trying to have his visa ban overturned.

"Nothing official yet. We are waiting. They are communicating with the government of Australia. That's all I can tell you for now," Djokovic said on Monday after winning his opening match at the ATP Finals in Turin on Monday night.

Tennis Australia said late on Tuesday it was yet to hear any official confirmation.

"That's entirely up to the Australian government. I know Novak wants to come and play and to get back to competing," tournament director Craig Tiley said.

"He loves Australia and it's where he's had the best success but the timing [on any announcement] is up to somebody else and we'll just play that one by ear."

With Wednesday marking two months before the 2023 Open gets underway in Melbourne, the uncertainty is hardly ideal. But Tiley was hopeful that tennis fans – and Djokovic – would not have to endure a re-run of this year's soap opera.

However, he was adamant he would not get involved as the 'will he or won't he' saga raged on.

"There's a normal visa application process that everyone is going through right now, and everyone will go through the right timing," Tiley said.

"I don't think there should be any preferential treatment for anyone.

"But I fully expect to have an answer for everyone by the time that they need to book their flights and come in, including Novak."

Tiley was caught in the middle of last summer's firestorm, breaking the news to the nine-time champion that he had secured a medical exemption to play at Melbourne Park, only for the then-immigration minister Alex Hawke to personally intervene and boot Djokovic out of Australia.

Despite the fiasco, Tiley said the 21-time grand slam winner had no hard feelings towards him.

"It's funny, I've spoken to Novak a few times. We caught up and spent some time together in London and he's fine. Our relationship is fine," Tiley said.

"He played the Laver Cup and it was really nice to be able to spend some private time with him.

"He understands the circumstances and everything but he's got to work it out with the federal government. I'm confident they'll reach some arrangement and hopefully it's positive.

"But I don't know that. That's really between he and the feds. But the conditions have changed significantly from where they were a year ago and I'd like to have Novak here.

# More ultra-fast NBN services now ready for order in Watson

**The Hon Michelle Rowland MP**
Minister for Communications
Member for Greenway

**The Hon Tony Burke MP**
Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations
Minister for the Arts
Member for Watson

Eligible residential homes and businesses in parts of Belfield, Strathfield South, Chullora and Greenacre can now place an order to upgrade their NBN connection to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP).

These upgrades will be available on demand where a customer in an eligible premises seeks a higher speed service through their Retail Service Provider.

This will allow residents and businesses to take advantage of the faster speeds which are increasingly important in a digital society and economy.

To further expand the benefits of fibre connections, the Albanese Government's 2022-23 Budget has invested $2.4 billion to enable an additional 1.5 million premises to transition from Fibre to the Node (FTTN) to Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) by 2025 – over 660,000 of which will be in regional areas.

As a result of the Albanese Government's investment to enable the NBN's full potential:

Close to 90 per cent of the NBN fixed-line footprint will have access to plans based on wholesale speeds of 500Mbps to close to gigabit speeds.

Around 80 per cent of all regional and remote premises will have access to plans based on wholesale speeds of 100 Mbps or more by late 2025. This was estimated at 33 per cent in March 2022.

93 per cent of all Australian homes and businesses will have access to plans based on wholesale speeds of 100 Mbps or more.

For more information on upgrade eligibility, visit www.nbn.com.au/fibreupgrade.

Quotes attributable to the Minister for Communications, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP:

"The NBN is a key investment in the nation's future. Since 2009, the network has kept Australians connected, supported tele-health and remote education, and boosted economic productivity by expanding access to new customers for small businesses.

"The Albanese Government is committed to ensuring that Australians get the full benefit of the NBN's potential by enabling as many NBN lines to access full fibre connections as possible. Our $2.4 billion investment in the Federal Budget will help ensure the NBN reaches its full potential.

"Eligible local residents and businesses in Watson will now be able to take advantage of higher speed services as a result of this announcement. Expanding fibre access will ensure Australians are at the forefront of digital connectivity and will help bridge the digital divide".

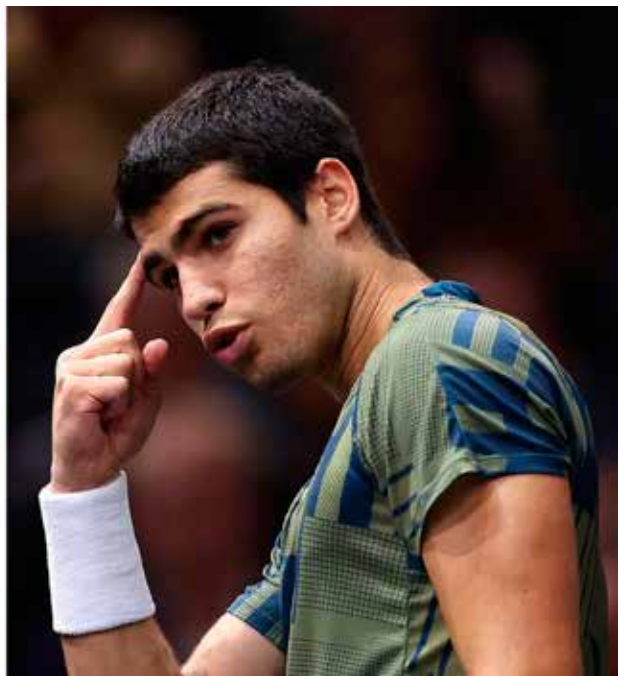
Quotes attributable to the Member for Watson, the Hon Tony Burke MP:

"Investing in expanded NBN fibre access is a gamechanger, that's why the Albanese Government is committed to it.

"This is a great opportunity for eligible local families and businesses to enjoy the benefits of a faster, more reliable fibre connection."

# Alcaraz steals Hewitt's world No.1 record





Spanish sensation Carlos Alcaraz has removed Lleyton Hewitt from a page in the tennis record books after becoming the youngest year-end No.1 in the nearly 50-year history of the ATP Tour.

The 19-year-old achieved that feat on Tuesday when second-ranked countryman and all-time great Rafael Nadal was eliminated from the ATP Finals in Turin following two consecutive straight-set losses.

Alcaraz began 2022 ranked No.32 but stormed into the top 10 thanks to his surprise run to the Miami Open title in early April and then a strong clay-court season that included titles in Barcelona and Madrid.

He arrived in New York in August for the US Open ranked fourth in the world; two weeks later he walked away with the trophy and the No.1 ranking.

By winning his maiden grand slam title at the age of 19 years, four months and six days, he became the youngest world No.1 since rankings began in 1973 and the youngest US Open champion since American legend Pete Sampras in 1990.

Alcaraz clinched the year-end No.1 despite not being able to compete in this week's elite, eight-man ATP Finals or the knockout stage of the Davis Cup Finals later this month in Malaga, Spain, due to an injury that he described on Twitter as an "oblique muscle tear in the left abdominal wall."

His absence left the door open for two players to chase down the No.1 spot in the final ATP Tour event of the season.

Greek world No.3 Stefanos Tsitsipas's chances rested on sweeping all five matches at that indoor hard-court event – three victories in the round-robin phase plus wins in the semi-finals and final.

That long-shot bid ended, however, when he lost to Serbia's Novak Djokovic 6-4 7-6 (7-4) in his opening round-robin contest on Monday.

Nadal, for his part, could have overtaken Alcaraz by either winning the tournament or by losing in the final against anyone other than an undefeated Tsitsipas, and not dropping any matches in the round-robin stage.

But the Spaniard, who has struggled in recent months with an abdominal injury that he suffered at Wimbledon and is now on a four-match losing streak for the first time since 2009, was eliminated from the tournament on Tuesday.

The winner of a record 22 grand slam singles titles lost his first round-robin match in straight sets to American Taylor Fritz 7-6 (7-3) 6-1 on Sunday and his second match to Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3 6-4 on Tuesday.

Nadal was then eliminated from the event when Norwegian world No.4 Casper Ruud won the first set of his match Tuesday night against Fritz. Ruud eventually won that contest 6-3 4-6 7-6 (8-6) to book his spot in the semis.

Prior to Alcaraz's remarkable 2022 season, Hewitt had held the distinction of being the youngest player to claim both the No.1 ranking (20 years, eight months and 26 days) and the year-end No.1 ranking (20 years, 275 days), achieving both feats in 2001.

The ATP Tour said Alcaraz will travel to Turin on Wednesday and be honoured for his achievement in a night time ceremony on centre court at the Pala Alpitour.

# Australia signs up to offshore wind alliance, as Chris Bowen declares return to climate change table

Australia's Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen has told the international community "Australia is back as a constructive, positive and willing climate collaborator" in a speech at the United Nations climate summit in Egypt.

"We remain committed to last year's determination to hold the world as close as possible to 1.5 degrees of warming," he told the gathered participants of COP27 on Tuesday night.

The address was backed by Australia announcing it had joined the Global Offshore Wind Alliance (GOWA), which is organised by the International Renewable Energy Agency and aims to see 380 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind infrastructure built around the world by 2030.

There is currently about 60GW of offshore wind capacity around the world.

Australia has no operational offshore wind projects, but proposals by private companies would offer a collective capacity of 40GW.

Nine other countries, including the US, UK, Japan and Germany, also joined the alliance at COP27.

Mr Bowen said offshore wind offered exciting opportunities for Australia's energy system as well as "our ambition to become a renewable energy superpower".

Australia has also joined the Global Methane Pledge since Labor took office and a pledge to end deforestation in November last year — but has so far not joined the Powering Past Coal Alliance or the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance.

Australia still in bottom 10 for climate action

Australia is ranked 51 out of 59 countries for its action on climate change, in the annual Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) by NGO Germanwatch.




Germanwatch is a prominent international climate NGO, which each year produces the comprehensive CCPI, with the input of hundreds of experts.

Australia's ranking went up from 55 in the NGO's previous report, following the more ambitious 2030 targets.

But those targets were criticised by Germanwatch for being too weak and not in line with stopping warming at 2C or 1.5C.

The report authors also criticised Australia's continued fossil fuel exploration and extraction.

Former Australian climate negotiator Richie Merzian, who is now at the Australia Institute, said Australia needed to do more to show the world it was transitioning away from fossil fuels.

"The Australian government's climate policy is a major improvement compared to the last government, but only a minor improvement when compared to other countries," he said.

Australia at international climate table

The CCPI did find a big improvement in Australia's international climate policy, noting a big shift in the country's engagement in international processes and citing its bid to host a COP — a conference of parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change — in 2026.

In Australia's national statement, Mr Bowen promised that if Australia was successful in co-hosting a COP with the Pacific nations, it would "seek to accelerate global action and harness the economic opportunities from the clean-energy transition".

Mr Bowen also criticised the role of the World Bank in addressing the climate crisis, saying "some of our international financial institutions are stepping up to this, our most important global task," and noting "others are not".

He said the World Bank must increase its spending on responding to climate change in the developing world, while "also ensuring that such funding doesn't saddle developing countries with unsustainable debt".

COP27 enters second week

Australia's National Statement came late compared to most other nations, with the majority of world leaders attending the first week of talks and leaving the second week to more junior leaders and bureaucrats.

Over the coming week, participants will discuss outstanding issues under the Paris Agreement, including how to compensate developing countries for the impacts of climate change, which they had little role in causing.

Called "loss and damage", the issue has received little attention from rich nations at previous UN climate conferences.

"We want to leave Sharm El-Sheikh with a new Loss and Damage Fund that incorporates principles of equity and historical responsibility," Bareesh Chowdhury, from the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said.

"Loss and damage is no longer a projection of something that may happen mid-century. We are experiencing it in the developing world right now.

"Waiting until COP29 for a decision is just not good enough.

"Governments have to be brave enough to make a political decision on loss and damage here and now. We can't leave without it."

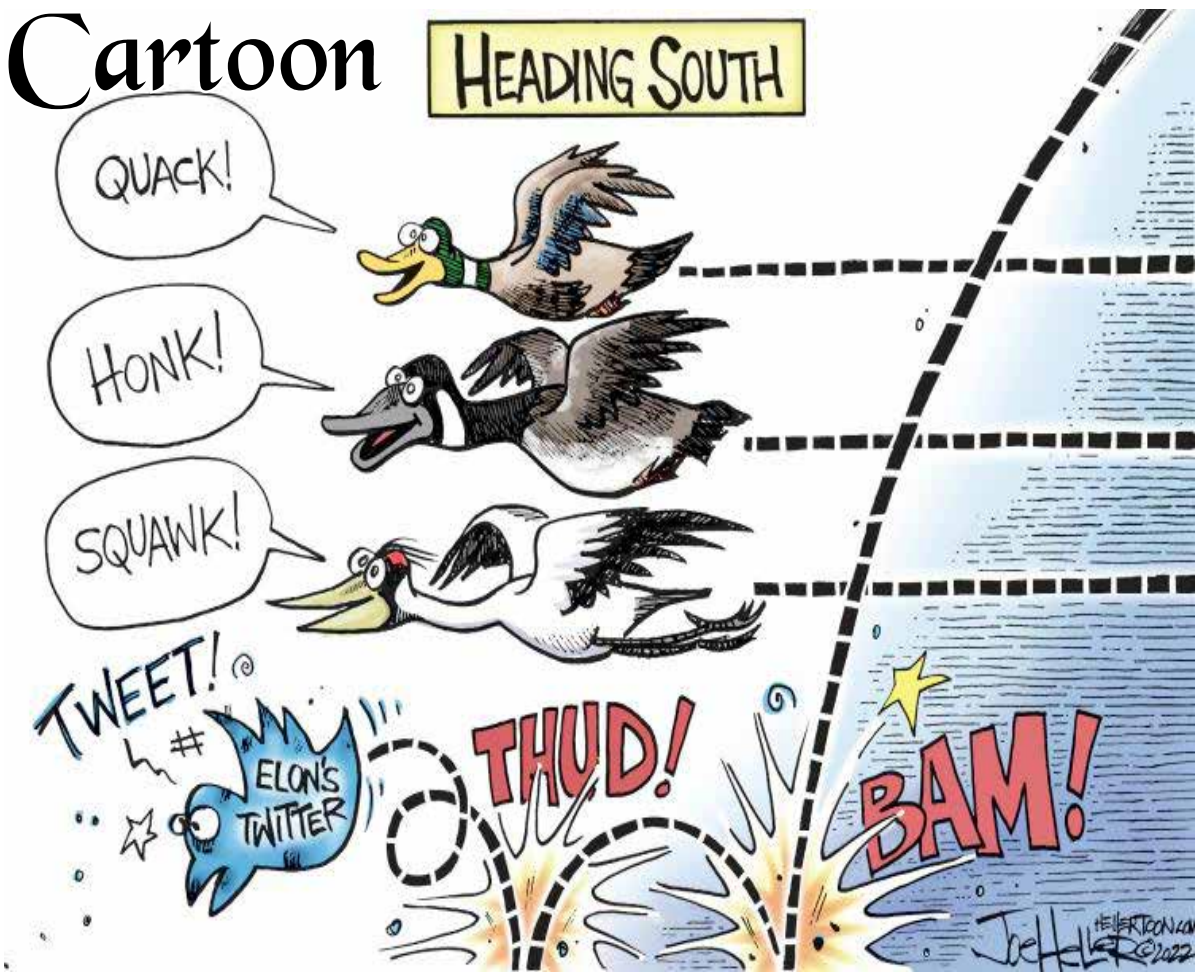
Mr Bowen told Nine Media that coming to an agreement on loss and damage at COP27 was unlikely — something Mr Merzian said was an "understatement".

"My take is that developing countries keen to set up and fill a loss and damage financing facility have no leverage over developed countries at COP27 because there isn't a lot on the table," Mr Merzian said.

"This will change as 2025 approaches and developed countries seek strong mitigation commitments from all countries.

"But for now, there isn't much to bargain with."

## Cartoon



# Foods to help maintain an erection

When a person has difficulty getting and maintaining an erection, doctors refer to it as ED. According to the Urology Care Foundation, ED affects up to 30 million men in the United States.

Understanding the physical, mental, and emotional factors that contribute to ED can help people choose a diet that promotes better sex.

Factors that contribute to ED include:

problems with blood flowing into and staying in the penis

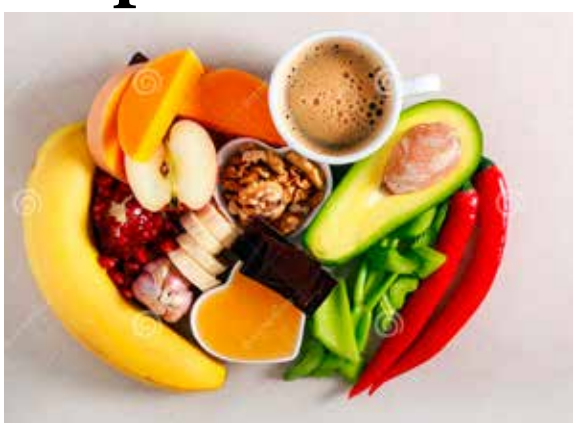
damage to nerve centers in the penis

side effects of medication, radiation, and other medical treatments

depression, anxiety, and stress

Tackling the underlying cause is the best way to treat ED. But another thing people can do is eat more fruit.

In one study, researchers linked a higher fruit intake to a 14 percentTrusted Source reduction



in the risk of ED. The flavonoid content of many fruits may be responsible for this improvement.

Foods rich in flavonoids include:

berries

citrus fruits

grapes

apples

hot peppers

cocoa products

red wine

tea (green, white, and black)

Research in an animal model has also shown that watermelon may be effective against ED. The melon's content of the amino acid l-citrullineTrusted Source may explain this positive action.

Also, nitric oxide may be beneficial to prevent ED by increasing blood flow and vasodilation.

Beets also contain nitrates, which convert to nitric oxide and may be beneficial for blood flow.

## Takeaway

Many people look to their diet to increase their sexual desire, improve their ability to have sex, and increase the pleasure they get from sex.

While research indicates possible links between particular foods and better sex, those seeking the best food for sex should ensure they are eating a balanced, heart-healthy diet.

# Nuts about almonds? Here are some more reasons to grab a handful

Almonds are highly nutritious, and a bit of an oddity: They are high in fat but can reduce cholesterol and promote weight loss.

Like eggs, they are often described as a perfect food.

New research investigates the part of almonds that isn't digested as food; the insoluble fibre and its effects on gut health and the microbes that support our digestive and immune systems.

Researchers from King's College London found that almond consumption have a limited impact on gut microbiota composition – the balance of healthy and unhealthy bacteria.

Almonds make gut bacteria work better

Instead, they found that the insoluble dietary fibre found in almonds, when broken down by healthy microbes, increases the concentration of a short-chain fatty acid called butyrate – which is being hailed in some health literature as the next big thing.

There's plenty of "next big things" in gut health, because it's an area of study that throws up new discoveries just about every week.

And the butyrate and almonds relationship is an important one.

As the King's researchers conclude, this increase in butyrate suggests "positive alterations to microbiota functionality".

In other words, it helps the germs in our gut to work better.

Another key finding was that almonds, as opposed to other sources of fibre, "can be incorporated into the diet to increase fibre consumption without triggering gut symptoms".

This is because fibre is a tricky thing, especially for people with sensitive guts – too little leaves you prone to serious health issues, too much can trigger a literal blowout.

Almonds are both healthy and benign.

The study



The 87 participants were "healthy adults" who were routinely eating less than the recommended amount of dietary fibre and who snacked on unhealthy foods such as cookies, chocolate and potato chips.

They were split into three groups: One group swapped their snacks for 56 grams of whole almonds a day, another for 56 grams of ground almonds a day, and the control group ate energy-matched (same number of calories as the almond groups) muffins.

The trial lasted four weeks.

Before the trial, and at its completion, gut microbiota composition and diversity was analysed with 16S rRNA gene sequencing, and short-chain fatty acids were measured with gas-chromatography.

Gut transit time (the time for food to travel from the mouth and the subsequent waste to make its exit) was measured with a wireless capsule.

Stool output and gut symptoms were recorded in a diary.

Higher levels of butyrate

Researchers found that the short-chain fatty acid butyrate was significantly higher among almond eaters compared to those who consumed the muffin.

Why is this helpful?

Butyrate is the main source of fuel for the cells lining the colon.

When these cells function effectively, three good things happen:

Gut microbes flourish

The gut wall is strengthened against leaks and inflammation

Nutrients are more effectively absorbed.

Can't poo-poo these results

There was no significant difference observed in gut transit time – the time it takes for food to move all the way through the gut – between almond eaters and the muffin control group.

However, the whole-almond eaters had an additional 1.5 bowel movements per week compared to the other groups.

These findings suggest eating almonds could also benefit those with constipation.

Overall, eating whole and ground almonds was shown to improve participants' diets, with higher intakes of monosaturated fatty acids, fibre, potassium and other important nutrients compared to the control group.

## Kim Kardashian is pink perfection in a vibrant curve-clinging gown



*Kim Kardashian, 42, was supported by her younger sister, Kylie Jenner, 25, as she received the Giving Tree Award*

Kim Kardashian was supported by her sister, Kylie Jenner, as they two made glamorous appearances at the Baby2Baby Gala held in West Hollywood earlier Saturday evening.

The mother of four, 42, was the recipient of the night's highest honor at the star-studded event and gratefully accepted the Giving Tree Award.

The SKIMS founder was not only cheered on by her fashionable younger sister, 25, but her proud mother, Kris Jenner, was also in attendance.

Kim, who has four children with her scandal-struck ex-husband Kanye West, is this year's honoree at the star-studded bash presented by Paul Mitchell.

The businesswoman donned an eye-catching pink gown that clung to her curves and contained a long train that flowed onto the floor behind her.

The long-sleeved ensemble contained stylish bows on the front while a small cut-out could be seen on the top left side of the dress, along with the right side.

She carried a mini pink Balenciaga purse in her hand as she posed for an array of photos upon arriving at the gala.

The material of the stunning dress appeared to shine in the lights of the camera's flashes.

## 'Don't have anything to hide': Jennifer Aniston reveals nearly all

Perennial star Jennifer Aniston has opened up about work, life and – for the first time – IVF in a wide-ranging and rare interview.

Aniston is the cover girl for the last print issue of Allure magazine, released on Thursday (Australian time).

On the cover, the 53-year-old star wears the itty-bitty Chanel logo "nipplekini" previously worn by supermodels such Eva Herzigova and Stella Tennant. Inside, she poses in vintage designer looks as she gives one of her most in-depth interviews in years.

From the comfort of her Los Angeles home, Aniston delved into her views on social media and the fading light of Hollywood stardom. She also reveals the difficulties intense media speculation during a secret – and long-running – effort to have a baby.

For nearly two decades, magazines pondered 'is she or isn't she?' about Aniston's pregnancy status.

On Thursday, she revealed for the first time that she had tried throughout her late 30s and 40s to have a baby.

"I was trying to get pregnant. It was a challenging road for me, the baby-making road," she said.

"All the years and years and years of speculation



*Pregnancy speculation dogged Aniston throughout her marriage to Justin Theroux.*

… It was really hard. I was going through IVF, drinking Chinese teas, you name it. I was throwing everything at it. I would've given anything if someone had said to me, 'Freeze your eggs. Do yourself a favour'.

"So here I am today. The ship has sailed."

## Sophie Ellis-Bextor recalls her famous 'home discos' during lockdown: 'It was such an abstract notion'

Sophie Ellis Bextor, 43, has fondly remembered the famous 'home discos' she performed during the peak of the pandemic.

The UK pop star, who rose to fame with the megahit Murder on the Dancefloor, told the Herald Sun she found a legion of new fans with the no-frills performances.

'It was such an abstract notion, on the one hand so many people from around the world were coming over to our kitchen every Friday, but on the other hand we couldn't see anybody,' she told the publication. The mother-of-five added: 'The community that came out of it meant so much to us. Life has just gone back to normal now but for Richard and I it was so special.'

Sophie is back in Australia for the first time in seven years, with her performing at the National Gallery Victoria last week.

She will soon appear on the special 'Rises in the East' concert series on Channel 7's Sunrise as part of the Summer Camp Festival.

In May 2020, Sophie was joined by her sons as she performed a medley of her biggest hits in her kitchen, which she streamed for her followers on Instagram.

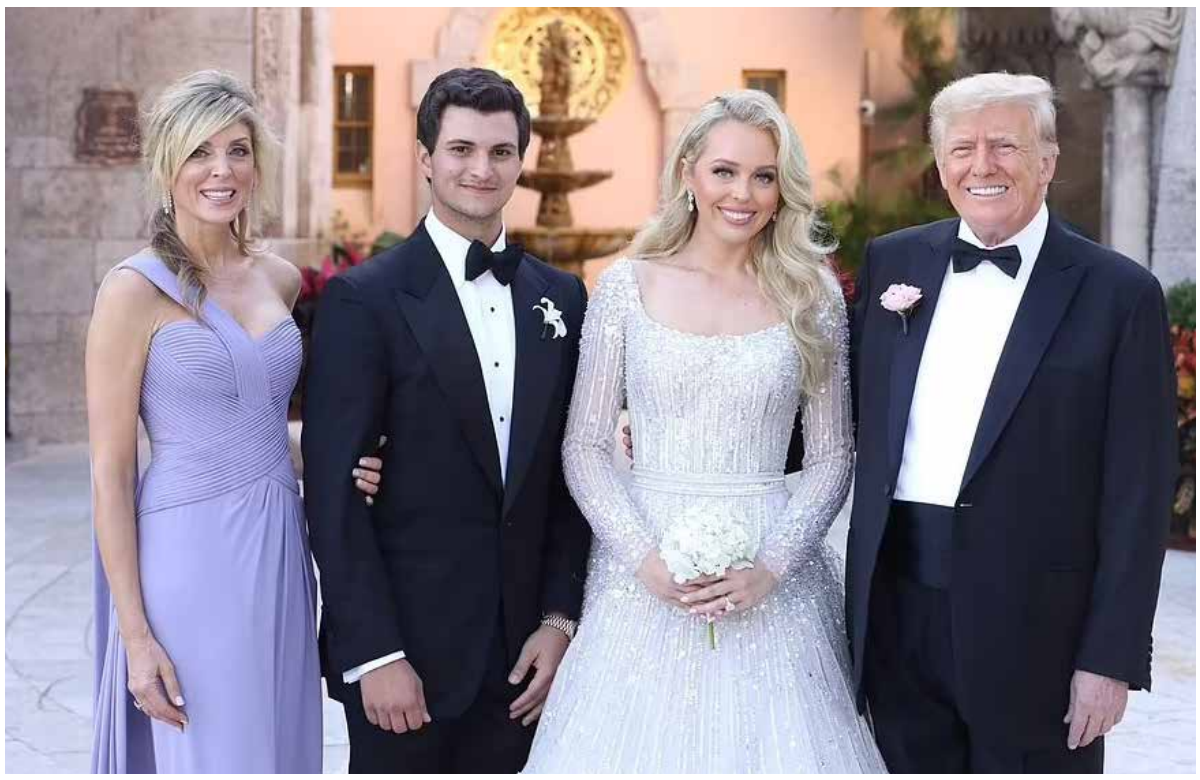
As she performed some of her biggest hits, Sophie turned Take Me Home into Stay At Home to remind fans to adhere to social distancing.

Sophie was spotted arriving in Sydney earlier this month with her husband, Richard Jones, the bassist of British rock band The Feeling, but was without her five kids.



*In May 2020, Sophie was joined by her sons as she performed a medley of her biggest hits*

# Tiffany Trump, 29, and husband Michael Boulos, 25, take to the floor for first dance at Mar-a-Lago fairytale wedding



*Tiffany Trump and Michael Boulous*

Tiffany Trump and her billionaire husband Michael Boulos gleamed as they graciously took to the floor for their first dance as a married couple at their magical Mar-a-Lago wedding on Saturday night.

Following the spectacular ceremony, Tiffany, 29, waltzed on to the dancefloor arm-in-arm with the groom before the doting couple shared their special moment to a cover of Toploader's 'Dancing in the Moonlight.'

Changed from her stunning wedding gown, Tiffany wore a flowing white dress as she showed off a diamond necklace and her sharply-dressed husband beside her in his black tuxedo.

The beaming couple swayed in each other's arms, with Michael spinning Tiffany before holding her in a loving embrace as the crowd cheered after an evening celebrating their nuptials. Shortly afterwards, everyone joined Tiffany and Michael on the dancefloor - including father-of-the-bride Trump enjoying a slow, intimate dance with wife Melania.

As they danced to 'Strangers in the Night,' by Frank Sinatra, Trump could be seen whispering in his wife's ear before he pecked her on the cheek with a kiss.

Like all the male guests, the former president sported a black tuxedo and bowtie, with Melania showing off a peach-colored dress.

# Missouri duo's $50,000 Powerball ticket sat unchecked for months

A Missouri man who won a $50,000 lottery prize with a friend said the ticket had been on his dresser for months before he discovered it was a winner.

The Missouri Lottery said the man and a friend bought a ticket for the June 11 Powerball drawing from the QuikTrip store on Belleau Creek Road in O'Fallon.

"Me and a buddy I've known for 50 years have been playing for the last few years," the man told lottery officials. "I've known him since seventh grade. We had lockers close to each other."

The man said the ticket had been left unchecked for months before he remembered to bring it to a store and have it scanned.

"The ticket was on my dresser since June 11," the man said. "When I checked it, the clerk said, 'You won $50,000!' and I said, 'That's good!'"

The man said he called his wife to tell her the news.




"I called my wife and asked her how her day was going. Then I told her, 'Here's how my day's going!'"

The man did not disclose whether he has any plans for his share of the winnings.

# Sarah Murdoch really ditched her dream of becoming a Hollywood star



*The reviews for Sarah Murdoch's first movie, the 2001 stinker Head Over Heels*

The reviews for Sarah Murdoch's first movie were so bad the international model and wife of media mogul Lachlan Murdoch never acted in another film.

Murdoch appeared in the 2001 stinker Head Over Heels, a 'romantic comedy-thriller' which did not even recoup its modest budget, with a credit under her maiden name Sarah O'Hare.

The Sydney beauty was already famous as a catwalk model, magazine cover girl and Wonderbra Woman, as well for her marriage to Rupert Murdoch's eldest son two years earlier.

Her supporting role opposite teen heartthrob Freddie Prinze Jnr in the Hollywood flop was not only Murdoch's debut feature film appearance but the result of her first movie audition.

Asked at the time by the IGN Entertainment website whether she preferred modelling or acting, Murdoch was clear about where she saw her future.

'Acting, definitely,' she said. 'I think as soon as I was on the set, as soon as we started filming the movie, I knew this was what I wanted to do. I absolutely love it.'


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# Taylor Swift resale tour ticket prices soar to $42,000 after Ticketmaster crashes



Millions of Taylor Swift fans have swarmed the Ticketmaster website, causing periodic outages and seeing resellers aiming to fetch up to US$28,350 ($42,000) per ticket for her US stadium tour.

Fans flocked online for a second day, looking to score seats to the Anti-Hero singer's first tour in five years.

Pre-sales began on Tuesday and brought millions of people to the Ticketmaster website, causing outages and long wait times.

A new round of Swift ticket pre-sales continued the following day, with fewer complaints on social media.

Asking prices on resale sites like StuHub were offering seats for an April show in Florida, ranging from $US338 ($500) to $US28,350 ($42,000) each.

'Unprecedented demand'

Fans reported waiting in online queues for up to eight hours on the first day of sales to purchase tickets that cost between $US49 ($73) and $US449 ($666) each.

Ticketmaster — which is owned by Live Nation Entertainment LYV.N — tweeted that there had been "historically unprecedented demand" for Swift's The Eras Tour, her first since 2018.

Fans flooding ticketing sites described crashes, outages, and other snafus, and many who were granted pre-sale codes ultimately could not buy tickets.

"I'm a failure as a father," wrote Dave Pell, author of the popular NextDraft newsletter.

"The one time my daughter really needed me to come through for her, I ended up on the outside looking in, banished to the barren badlands of the Taylor Swift ticket waiting list wasteland," he said.

Some fans said they took a day off work and felt the process should have gone more smoothly.

A Ticketmaster spokesperson said the number of people who registered for the early sale was more than twice the number of tickets available.

# Australia joins global no-plastic pledge



Australia has joined a global push to end plastic pollution within the next two decades.

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek on Wednesday announced Australia would join the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution initiative, which has a goal of putting a stop to plastic pollution by 2040.

Ms Plibersek said plastic pollution was a global problem that needed an international solution and no single nation could solve the issue alone.

"My vision is for us to achieve a plastic-free Pacific within our lifetime," she said.

"Here at home, we're feeling the impacts of unsustainable global plastic production.

"In the Torres Strait and Timor Sea, abandoned fishing gear is killing marine animals on an industrial scale."

The coalition, which is led by Norway and Rwanda but also includes countries such as the UK, Germany and Canada, aims to end plastic pollution by limiting consumption and production to sustainable levels.

It also plans to create a circular economy for plastic products in which they are either reused or recycled when no longer needed.

Ms Plibersek agreed with state and territory environment ministers last month to reform the regulation of plastic packaging by 2025.

The announcement follows news earlier in November that Australia's largest soft-plastic recycling scheme, REDcycle, was being temporarily scrapped, leaving millions of plastic bags sitting in warehouses rather than being reused.

# How to dress for the office after all that time working from home



It's been a strange time for fashion for the past two years or so.

The onset of covid and at-home isolation saw us all rapidly shift into wearing comfy, cosy clothing 24/7: no shoes unless they were slippers or trainers, and zero need for interesting accessories.

Those of us who could work from home via Zoom meetings adopted a new work uniform, which was office appropriate from the waist up, complete comfort from the waist down.

As we came out of lockdown, our reliance on these easy pieces of clothing continued, as it's hard to give up the elastic waist stretch pant once you've tried it.

My go to Zoom uniform outfit is still a cotton button down shirt, hoop earrings and lipstick, while the bottom half of me could be in anything from pyjama pants to bike shorts.

Our love of athleisure is continuing but as we head into 2023 it appears that many employers are hoping that their employees will be spending more time in the office, so what to wear to work now is a very valid question.

Corporate wear is never really going to look like it did before now we've all had a taste of comfort.

No one is going to sign up for strict suiting, pencil skirts, tight waistbands, or restrictive jackets but office attire should be a couple of levels up from a tracksuit, at least.

Part of enticing staff back into head office means letting them have some leeway with how they dress for work and embracing a kind of hybrid dressing that's part corporate, part work from home.

Here's three good options:

Soft suiting

For women this can be in linen in a high waisted pant with an oversized loose jacket, worn with a white singlet or sleeveless shell top.

There is some conversation around whether crop tops can be worn for work and this really depends on the formality of the work environment, but suffice to say a crop top would be best with a high waisted pant or skirt.

More corporate offices may require a more formal shoe such as a loafer or heels, but the suit will look just as great with flat sandals or sneakers if your workplace is more relaxed.

Short sleeved shirts for men

Designers have really upped their game in this department and there are fantastic short sleeve shirts around in interesting fabrics from corduroy, to fine button, through knits and stripey seersucker.

Again, it will depend upon how corporate the workplace is as to whether they can be worn with shorts or long pants, but they are a better summer option than a logo t-shirt or a too tight polo.

I'm hoping to see the short sleeve shirt tucked into walk shorts, and a handlebar moustache comeback again to be honest.

Matched sets

This means wide tailored pants and a sleeveless top in the same fabric (such as black linen), relaxed pull-on pants with a longer line top, or a print mid-length skirt with a shirt.

Matching fabrics mean they have a corporate formality, but with an easy sense of style, and you can change the look a million ways with a well-placed accessory and shoe.

We may be going back to the workplace, but we still want clothes that work for us.

# Anthony Albanese ...

Ardern offered to bring a trade delegation to China, and Mr Xi asked her to consider dates.

When asked whether an invitation would be extended in his direction any time soon, Mr Albanese was careful in his wording.

"What we've had this week is first steps, and I'm not getting ahead of myself," he told reporters.

"I think that engagement with China, like engagement with other nations, is constructive, it has been this week.

"We'll continue to, arising out of this week's progress, take steps forward together."

The prime minister's attendance at G20 in Bali has been dominated by discussion of Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, and China's strategic ambition in the Asia Pacific.

North Korea's launch of a long-range missile overshadowed part of the APEC summit, when US Vice-President Kamala Harris convened a meeting with Japan, South Korea, Canada, New Zealand and Australia on the sidelines to condemn the launch.

"You can't have one nation solutions to issues which are global," Mr Albanese said.

"They require international cooperation, they require goodwill, and they require countries to work together for our common interest.

"And that is what I have sought to do over the past eight days, is to send a message that Australia wants to engage constructively, to work with our partners in the region, and indeed, throughout the world."

Trade issues with Taiwan

On Friday Mr Albanese suggested Taiwan was not eligible to join the mammoth global trade agreement, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), because it was not recognised as an nation state.

That prompted concern from Taipei's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), which insisted the CPTPP was open to economies, regardless of their diplomatic standing.

Overnight, MOFA said the Australian Government had been in contact.

"The government of Australia has since clarified with Taiwan that its stance on Taiwan's accession to the CPTPP has not changed and that it continues to welcome the entry of all economies that meet the high standards of the CPTPP, including Taiwan," spokesperson Joanne Ou said.

Mr Albanese avoided directly answering whether he had misspoken, when questioned.

"Our position has not changed," he said.

"We will deal with applications as they are dealt with by consensus for economies applying to join the CPTPP.

"The issue that is being dealt with at the moment that was agreed to be dealt with by all the countries by consensus is the UK — those negotiations have been going on for a year and they're continuing to go on, and we will deal with the applications on their merits."

# Trump announces...

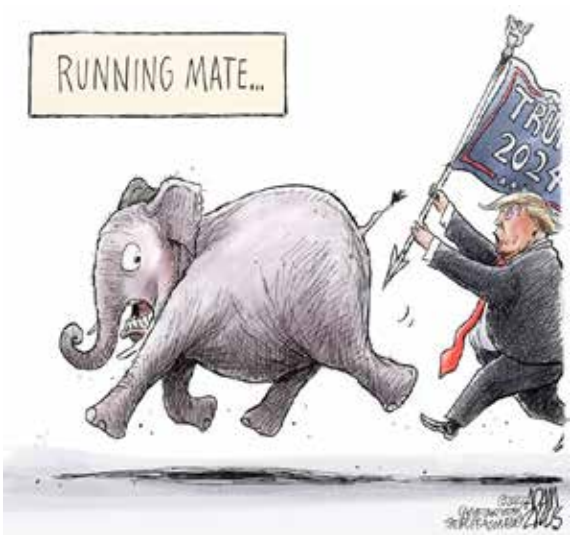
will seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2024.

"In order to make America great and glorious again, I am tonight announcing my candidacy for president of the United States," Trump told a crowd gathered at Mar-a-Lago, his waterfront estate in Florida, where his campaign will be headquartered.

Surrounded by allies, advisers, and conservative influencers, Trump delivered a relatively subdued speech, rife with spurious and exaggerated claims about his four years in office. Despite a historically divisive presidency and his own role in inciting an attack on the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, Trump aimed to evoke nostalgia for his time in office, frequently contrasting his first-term accomplishments with the Biden administration's policies and the current economic climate. Many of those perceived accomplishments – from strict immigration actions to corporate tax cuts and religious freedom initiatives – remain deeply polarizing to this day.

As Trump spoke to a roomful of Republicans who expect him to face primary challengers in the coming months, he also claimed the party cannot afford to nominate "a politician or conventional candidate" if it wants to win back the White House.

"This will not be my campaign, this will be our




campaign all together," Trump said.

Trump's long-awaited campaign comes as he tries to reclaim the spotlight following the GOP's underwhelming midterm elections performance – including the losses of several Trump-endorsed election deniers – and the subsequent blame game that has unfolded since Election Day. Republicans failed to gain a Senate majority, came up short in their efforts to fill several statewide seats, and have yet to secure a House majority, with only 215 races called in their favor so far out of the 218 needed, developments that have forced Trump and other party leaders into a defensive posture as they face reproval from within their ranks.

# Bill Gates warns...




development assistance. Gates acknowledged that the costs of donor countries' coronavirus pandemic response had made navigating the internal politics of international aid harder. But "the Ukraine war, I'd say, is even worse" because of Europe's outsized spending in areas from food security to gender equality, he said.

"The Ukraine war is stretching their budgets with defence costs, refugee costs, electricity subsidies and shipping costs," he said.

As deadlines approach for replenishing the Aids, malaria and tuberculosis-fighting Global Fund, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, "our goal is . . . to highlight that these budgets shouldn't be cut if at all possible".

The UK, the biggest donor to the vaccine alliance Gavi, slashed overseas aid spending from 0.7 per cent of gross national income to 0.5 per cent in 2020, citing the Covid-19 crisis. Rishi Sunak, then the chancellor, said last year that the controversial cut would be reversed in 2024-25.

"In the near term we're not going to get an increase back to 0.7 [per cent], but we're hoping to maintain the 0.5 per cent," Gates said.

In 2015 almost 200 countries signed on to the UN's targets for addressing challenges from hunger to climate change. In their annual progress report, released on Tuesday, Gates and his ex-wife Melinda French Gates wrote: "Seven years in, the world is on track to achieve almost none of the goals."

They added that, as matters stood, "we'd need to speed up the pace of our progress five times faster to meet most of our goals". Even this might be an underestimate, the report said, "because some of the projections don't yet account for the impact of the pandemic, let alone the war in Ukraine or the food crisis it kicked off in Africa".

In particular, the conflict in Ukraine had "dramatically exacerbated" food security challenges, Gates Foundation chief executive Mark Suzman said. Global gender equality is now not expected until 2108, three generations later than once projected, French Gates noted.