



THE WORLD OBSERVER

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I would like to extend my best wishes to the Arabic community

I hope you have a wonderful and peaceful Christmas

with your friends and family and a great 2022

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By Mamdouh
Sukkarieh

Issues raised in 2023

Reflecting on the events of the past year, several issues come to light:

Reckless driving behaviors

A notable increase in car accidents occurred, particularly pointing to the involvement of young drivers as a significant contributor to road fatalities and incidents. Every year countless lives are lost, and numerous injuries occur due to reckless driving behaviors. This trend is attributed to a perception of driving as a source of enjoyment rather than a serious responsibility. Many young drivers tend to believe that accidents won't happen to them, dismissing the potential risks. Addressing this issue necessitates more robust measures from the government to regulate the driving behaviors of young individuals. The dangers associated with reckless driving are clear and present, posing a threat to everyone on the road. It is essential for individuals, communities, and authorities to work together to promote responsible driving habits. Strict law enforcement, public awareness campaigns, and education on the consequences of reckless behavior are crucial steps toward creating safer roads for everyone.

The cost of living

Living in Australia comes at a significant cost, and the high expenses affect various aspects of the lives of Australian residents. From housing to everyday essentials, the cost of living in Australia has been a topic of concern for many. Let's explore how these elevated costs impact different facets of Australian life:

Housing Affordability:

The real estate market in Australia, particularly in major cities, has experienced soaring prices. High property costs make it challenging for individuals, especially first-time homebuyers, to enter the housing market. Renting, too, can be a financial burden, impacting the ability of many to secure stable and affordable housing.

Everyday Expenses: Daily essentials such as groceries, transportation, and healthcare contribute to the overall cost of living. The higher prices for these necessities put a strain on household budgets, affecting the spending power of individuals and families.

Education Expenses: Education, a crucial aspect of personal and societal development, can be expensive in Australia. From school fees to university tuition, the cost of education can create financial barriers for some, limiting access to quality education.

Work-Life Balance: Australians may feel compelled to work longer hours or multiple jobs to cope with the high cost of living. This can impact work-life balance, leading to increased stress and potential implications for mental health and overall well-being.

Addressing the challenges associated with the high cost of living in Australia requires a comprehensive approach, involving policy

changes, affordable housing initiatives, and strategies to reduce economic disparities.

Media Treatment of Our Community:

A Call for Fairness

The mainstream Australian media's treatment of our community has been consistently perceived as unfair, and unfortunately indications suggest that this pattern may persist. Many argue that various influences shape media portrayals. This prompts the question: Why do we provide them with reasons to perpetuate a specific image of our community? Shouldn't our adherence to the law and exemplary contributions to the community be recognized and acknowledged? It's essential to explore avenues for a more equitable representation in the media.

Technology

Technology undergoes continuous evolution, and its impact on society can be detrimental and beneficial, contingent upon age groups. The effects of technology on teenagers are subject to debate, with some asserting that it facilitates their growth by advancing their knowledge, while others argue that it hampers their social skills, potentially leaving future generations socially inept. In summary, the presented arguments underscore that technology can have both positive and negative impacts on teenagers, contingent upon its usage. The key lies in striking a balance between the time adolescents spend on technological devices and their engagement with peers and family. As the saying goes, "Too much of a good thing, is a bad thing."

Discovering the Essence of Christmas

Christmas, a time-honored tradition celebrated around the globe, holds a special place in the hearts of people from various cultures and backgrounds. It is a season that goes beyond the exchange of gifts; it symbolizes love, generosity, and the spirit of togetherness. In the Christmas we explore the values that make it a cherished and universally embraced holiday.

The season unfolds where families and friends unite to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ. While many associate Christmas with decorating trees, selecting meaningful gifts, illuminating homes with lights, and exchanging cards, the true essence of Christmas goes beyond these festive traditions.

Christmas encapsulates a profound sense of joy, serving as a period marked by peace, love, and happiness. It signifies the moment when God bestowed upon Mother Mary the gift of a child, destined for extraordinary accomplishments in the future. Shepherds, wise men, and angels shared in the exhilaration of this momentous event.

As we navigate through this festive season, my sincere wish is for everyone to experience a splendid Christmas surrounded by cherished family and friends.

Additionally, may the approaching New Year bring boundless happiness and prosperity for everyone. May the cruel Israeli conflict against the vulnerable Palestinian population, including children, women, and the elderly, come to an end, paving the way for peace to prevail in the land known as the cradle of peace.



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR



JASON CLARE MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BLAXLAND

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🌐 www.jasonclare.com.au

Authorised by Jason Clare MP, ALP, Suite 7, Level 1, 400 Chapel Road Bankstown NSW 2200

**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**

I would like to extend my best
wishes to you and your families
for the holiday season and a
happy and peaceful New Year.

Anne Stanley MP
Federal Member for Werriwa



Happy New Year

**Wishing you and your family
happiness for the year ahead**



ED HUSIC MP FEDERAL MEMBER FOR CHIFLEY

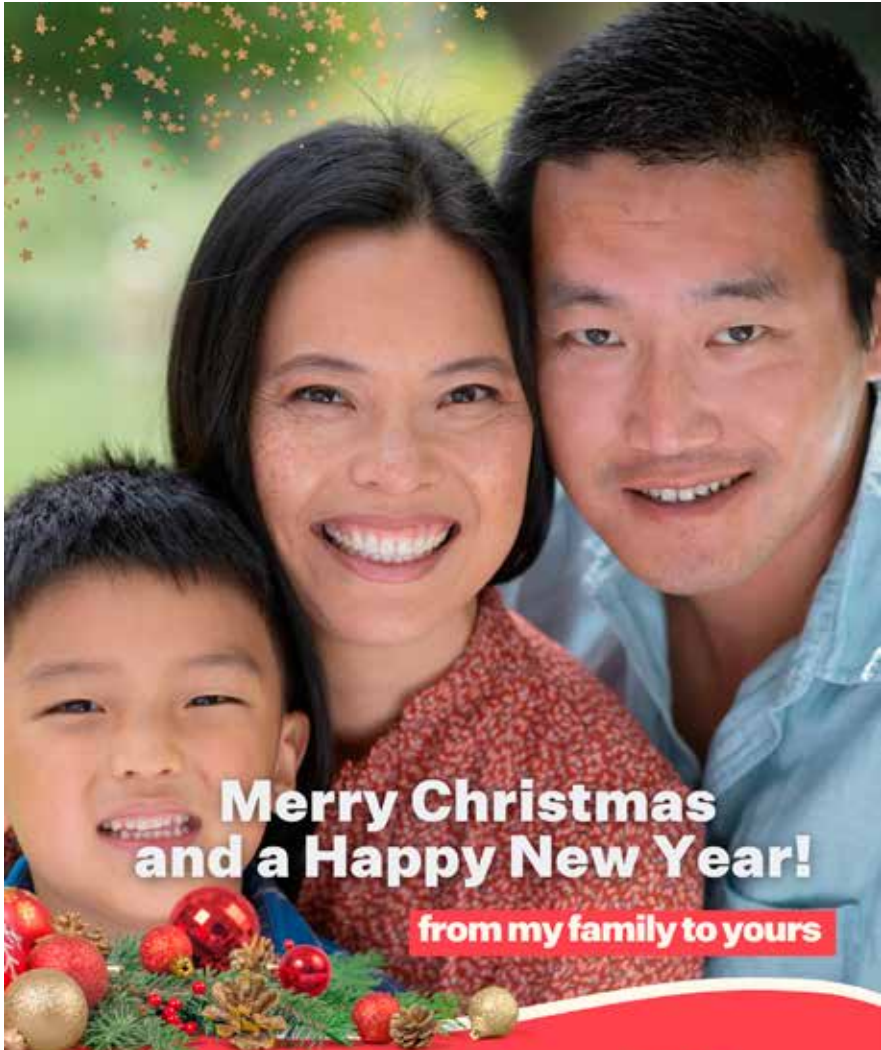
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Authorised by Ed Husic MP, ALP, Shop 41 Plumpton Marketplace, Cnr Hyatts & Jersey Road, Plumpton NSW 2761.





**Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!**
from my family to yours

 **Sally Sitou MP**
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR REID


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Authorised by Sally Sitou MP, ALP, 72 Burwood Rd, Burwood NSW 2134.

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Tony Burke MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WATSON

**Wishing you,
your family
and those
you love the
peace and joy
of Christmas.**



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 **KYLIE WILKINSON MP**
STATE MEMBER FOR EAST HILLS

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**Wishing you
a Merry Christmas and
a Terrific New Year**

Authorised by Kylie Wilkinson MP. Funded using parliamentary entitlements. December 2023



Cllr Ola Hamed
Deputy Mayor

**Wishing you and your family a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**


CUMBERLAND
CITY COUNCIL



By Natalie Sukkarieh 🇸🇩🇸🇩🇸🇩



Christmas

*Here oh here,
It's that time for cheer!
A time of year,
That is very dear.*

*A celebration of religion and love,
Christmas is beautiful like a dove.
Where joy is shared,
And speakers are blared,
With magical Christmas songs,
Why don't you all sing along!*

*Voices project loudly,
While people sing "Merry Christmas" proudly.
With so much green and red,
I never want to go to bed!*

*Streets traced with lights and tinsel,
Christmas is like that one wrinkle,
That you cannot escape
So save the date,*

*For when people come together,
Spirits are as light as a feather,
And regardless of the weather,
The joy will go on forever.*

*Gifts are given,
And children have ambition
As Laughter is shared,
And lovebirds are paired.*

*What a time to believe in hope,
Like a reminder from the pope,
To look at the light
And ignore any fright,*

*For when it's Christmas time,
Everybody stays in line.
The occasion is void of any crime,
Projecting goodness like a big sign.*

*So when Christmas comes this year,
Do not have any fear,
For the way of hope will be shown,
As Christ believed when he was alone.*

*Merry Christmas to all,
Let's go have a ball
To celebrate this time of cheer.
Isn't December the best month of the year!*

Wishing
you and your family
a happy holidays
and joyous festive
season

MARK COURE MP
Member for Oatley
Shadow Minister for Multiculturalism

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@ Oatley@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Authorised by Mark Coure MP, 24 Pitt Street, Mortdale NSW 2222, funded using Parliamentary Entitlements.

LOVE LIVERPOOL

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Best wishes for the
Festive Season


Mayor Ned Mannoun

LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

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Merry Christmas

Labor

NSW Premier Chris Minns & Labor MPs wish you and your family
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The Hon Chris Minns MP
Member for Kogarah
Premier of New South Wales



The Hon Steve Kamper MP
Member for Rockdale, Minister for Small Business,
Minister for Lands and Property
Minister for Multiculturalism, Minister for Sport



The Hon Penny Sharpe MLC
Member of Legislative Council, Minister for Climate
Change, Minister for Energy, Minister for the
Environment, Minister for Heritage



The Hon Jo Haylen MP
Member for Summer Hill
Minister for Transport



The Hon Paul Scully MP
Member for Wollongong
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces



The Hon Sophie Cotsis MP
Member for Canterbury
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Work Health and Safety



The Hon Mark Buttigieg MLC
Member of Legislative Council, Parliamentary
Secretary for Industrial Relations, Parliamentary
Secretary for Work Health and Safety, Parliamentary
Secretary for Multiculturalism



Julia Finn MP
Member for Granville
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and Public Spaces



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Member for Leppington
Government Whip



Donna Davis MP
Member for Parramatta
Temporary Speaker



Charishma Kaliyanda MP
Member for Liverpool



Sally Quinnell MP
Member for Camden



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Wishing you and your loved ones
a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024.
I hope the year ahead brings the gift of joy and
peace to all.

Jihad Dib MP
Member for Bankstown

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Authorised by Jihad Dib MP. Funded using
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I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL
A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR

The Hon. Stephen Kamper MP
Member for Rockdale
Minister for Small Business, Lands and Property,
Multiculturalism and Sport

أتمنى للجميع عيد ميلاد مجيد
ورأس سنة مباركة
ميلاد مجيد وعام مبارك
ستيفن كامبر نائب روكدل

Authorised by The Hon. Stephen Kamper MP
478 Princes Highway Rockdale
Funded using Parliamentary Entitlements November 2023




CUMBERLAND
CITY COUNCIL

On behalf of Cumberland Council,
I wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a happy and safe New Year.

- Mayor Lisa Lake -

Visit our website to view Council's
operational hours over the festive season.

Mayor Lisa Lake | Councillor - Wentworthville Ward | Cumberland City Council
16 Memorial Avenue, PO Box 42, Merrylands NSW 2160 8757 9856 Lisa.Lake@cumberland.nsw.gov.au



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

May you and your loved ones have peace and joy during this festive season.

Cr Pierre Esber
Lord Mayor, City of Parramatta



Celebrate Christmas and New Year in Parramatta
<https://atparramatta.com/christmas>
<https://atparramatta.com/nye>



CITY OF PARRAMATTA

MERRY Christmas

Bilal El Hayek
Clr Bilal El-Hayek
MAYOR
City of Canterbury
Bankstown






Contact me at: P 9707 9522 E Mayor@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au
f @MayorBilalElHayek i @Bilal.ElHayek x @ClrBilalElHayek



Clr Rachelle Harika
Deputy Mayor

I wish
you and your families
a Happy Christmas
and safe New Year



CANTERBURY BANKSTOWN



Bayside Council



From everyone at Bayside Council,
we wish you a Merry Christmas and
a wonderful New Year.

Have a safe and joyous festive season.

www.bayside.nsw.gov.au



Official opening of the IWAA NSW Office

On the 27th of November was the official opening of the IWAA NSW Office at Canterbury rd Roselands. The event was graced by the presence of the Honorable Minister Jihad Dib MP, the Consul General of Egypt, His Excellency Mohamad Khalil, as well as distinguished politicians, media figures, and community leaders. The celebration marked a memorable occasion for the community. Heartfelt appreciation goes to Sue Hamdoush and the team for orchestrating such a splendid event. IWAA is a non-for-profit organisation aiming at providing a wide range of services to the community. With a specialist focus on delivering services to the culturally and Linguistically Diverse community.

IWAA provides Aged Care, disability support services, community development and settlement support services through receipt of funding from state and Federal Government. IWAA currently provides services across Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.



Season's Greetings

Wishing you and your family a safe and joyous festive season

LINDA BURNEY MP
Federal Member for Barton

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Jason Clare hosted a wonderful Christmas party



The Federal Education Minister, Jason Clare hosted a wonderful Christmas party event, marking the onset of the festive Christmas season in 2023. The gathering included parliamentary members such as Lynda Voltz MP, Anthony D'Adam MLC, Kylie Wilkinson MP, David Saliba MP, Deputy Mayor Rachelle Harika - Canterbury Bankstown Council, Uncle John, Clr Sabrina Farooqui, clr Chris Cahill and clr Glenn Elmore. The event drew a distinguished audience comprising politicians, councilors, The World Observer Media editor Dr Mamdouh Sukkarieh, associations, and members of the local community.

Minister Clare said "Christmas festivities have begun in our City and many will spend the next few weeks celebrating with family and friends.

We have had a long-held tradition of thanking the community, the religious organisations, the not-for-profit groups, our local police and emergency services and many others.

And it was pleasing to see so many turn up and celebrate in the Christmas thanksgiving and spirit at our annual Christmas event."

Minister Clare extended a warm welcome to the attendees, conveying his wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





As a united force, we'll continue to grow, learn, and make rugby league history in Syria



The success of the Syrian rugby teams at the United Tournament is truly remarkable. Despite the challenges of a short preparatory and training period, their dedication and hard work paid off, securing victories in three out of four matches. A significant number of the Syrian community gathered to show support, proudly waving the Syrian flag and singing the anthem, creating a powerful and unforgettable atmosphere for both players

and spectators.

The commitment of the players to train even harder for future tournaments bodes well for the continued success of Syrian rugby on the international stage. Representing one's homeland and feeling a sense of national pride can be powerful motivators, inspiring athletes to give their best and achieve great results.

Sports have a unique way of fostering unity

and pride among people, and it's clear that the Syrian rugby teams have become a source of inspiration for the community. The achievements in this tournament not only showcase the talent and determination of the players but also serve as a testament to the resilience and spirit of the Syrian people. Congratulations and THANK YOU to all of our Coaches, Managers and players from the Australian Syrian League.

Mayor Bilal El-Hayek's Christmas party



On Wednesday, December 6th, the Mayor of the City of Canterbury Bankstown, Cr Bilal El-Hayek, hosted an enchanting Christmas party. A delightful gathering of approximately 300 people came together to partake in the festive celebration. Reflecting on the significance of

Christmas, Mayor El-Hayek expressed, "A remarkable aspect of Christmas is the ability to share the festivities with those who matter most to us. However you choose to spend it, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a joyful Christmas and may the New Year usher in peace and happiness for you and your family."



Blake Lively reveals 'adulthood' revelation in deep post about female friendships



Blake Lively has posted a lengthy statement in support of women "lifting each other up."

The actress has shared a series of photos with Taylor Swift and Beyonce – revealing an “adulthood” revelation she had about being a woman in Hollywood.

Blake Lively has revealed it took her until “adulthood” to discover the truth about being a woman in Hollywood.

The US actress, 36, shared a series of photos on Instagram with Beyonce and Taylor Swift at the Renaissance: A Film by Beyonce premiere in London on Thursday, writing a deep post about how females share an “instinct” to support each other, despite societal pressures that suggest otherwise.

“When I grew up, women were always pit against one another,” Lively shared.

“It took me until adulthood to see that the instinct for women to lift each other up to their highest potential is the norm, not the exception.”

She continued: “Most of my best friends are women who would’ve been packaged to me as threats or competition.

“It’s our job to show younger generations the power in aligning rather than dividing.”

The mother-of-four finished off her post with her trademark humour, adding, “All this to say, @beyonce and @taylorswift neither of you have to be threatened by my pop stardom. There’s space for us all.”

It comes after Beyonce set the internet alight after attending the premiere of Swift’s The Eras Tour concert film in October, with her fans remarking how the pop icon rarely makes public appearances.

Top conservative says Donald Trump will be Julius Caesar-esque DICTATOR if he wins in 2024



A famous neoconservative says Donald Trump will become a dictator like Julius Caesar if he wins the 2024 election.

In the lengthy Washington Post piece, Robert Kagan lays out his argument that Trump is well on his way to becoming the GOP nominee for president and stands a good chance of defeating Joe Biden in November.

He says Trump’s second term would see him become the most powerful president in US history, after defeating two impeachments and coming through four indictments, which have only served to turbocharge GOP support.

Kagan also believes Trump - who can only serve one further term, having previously been president from 2017 to 2021 - could defy that convention too and stay on as long as he sees fit.

‘The idea that he is unelectable in the general election is nonsense - he is tied or ahead of President Biden in all the latest polls - stripping other Republican challengers of their own stated reasons for existence,’ he writes.

At present, Trump remains some 30-40 points

ahead of his nearest GOP competitor in the polls, and is several points up over Biden in many general election match ups.

If that happens, Kagan writes, Trump will be in a comfortable position to thwart each of the checks and balances built into the US government and potentially install himself as a supreme leader.

‘Like Caesar, Trump wields a clout that transcends the laws and institutions of government, based on the unswerving personal loyalty of his army of followers,’ Kagan writes about Trump as he argues that the former president’s plethora of legal woes will not be effective blockades against his political ascension.

He continues: ‘The likeliest outcome of the trials will be to demonstrate our judicial system’s inability to contain someone like Trump and, incidentally, to reveal its impotence as a check should he become president.’

He then argues that, should Trump find himself inhabiting the White House for a second term, he may very well decide he’d like a third.

Harry and Meghan urged to ‘break silence’ on race row with royals

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have been “urged to break their deafening silence” after two royals in a “racism” row were named. The Duke and Duchess of Sussex are yet to comment on Omid Scobie’s book Endgame which claimed King Charles and Princess Kate made comments about Archie’s skin colour, The Sun reports.

Scobie, who is widely known as Markle’s “mouthpiece”, has refused to apologise for his bombshell book and has since told the world he did not put in the names.

Blasted for peddling “bulls**t” excuses, Scobie blamed the shock naming on Dutch translation.

However, translator Saskia Peeters claimed the version she received had the names of the royals in “black and white”.

Amid a growing backlash against Scobie’s hatchet-job book, a senior Government minister praised the “dignity” and “grace” of Charles and Kate. The King has put on a brave, yet visibly tired, face at the COP28 summit in Dubai where his doctor has rarely left his side.

The Princess and Prince William put on a united front on Thursday as they attended the Royal Variety Performance.

But Harry and Meghan, who quit the firm in 2020, have stayed silent.

Kim Kardashian, Nicole Kidman and Salma Hayek lead the front row stars at Balenciaga runway

Kim Kardashian, Nicole Kidman and Salma Hayek were among a number of fashionably dressed guests attending the Balenciaga Fall 24 show on Saturday in Los Angeles.

The reality TV star, 42, sizzled in a pair of skintight nude lace leggings that showed off her famous hourglass curves, and featured built in heels as she arrived to the show, which took place in a blocked-off residential street in the Hancock Park neighborhood.

Kidman, 56, looked classy in a black velvet coat dress with a stylish open-shoulder design. She paired the look with a black clutch, pointed toe heels, a large pearl earring, black gloves and sunglasses.

Meanwhile the Friday star, 57, stunned in a form-hugging black ruched dress, which she teamed with a bubblegum pink Balenciaga purse and heels.

The show comes after the luxury fashion house faced a massive controversy over a year ago when consumers claimed their ad campaign that showed children posing with bears wearing BDSM gear promoted 'child exploitation.'

Kardashian teamed her outfit with a black zip up athletic jacket with a white Beverly Hills logo. She wore her raven tresses parted in the middle and cascading down in a curly wet look. The mother-of-four shielded her eyes with a pair of futuristic sunglasses.

She carried an Erewhon shopping bag with a bouquet of flowers, as she promoted the new collaboration between the luxury fashion house and the upscale grocery store.

'This is my purse for the day. There are flowers in it. I'm going to give them to Demna later, she told Variety, in reference to Balenciaga's creative director Demna Gvasalia.

Following the show Kardashian told the outlet that the 'collection was amazing' and that she liked the 'Juicy Couture-inspired sweats' at the start of the show.

She was joined by sister Kendall Jenner, 28, who wowed in a sleeveless black maxi gown.



Kardashian teamed her outfit with a black zip up athletic jacket with a white Beverly Hills logo

Melissa Leong stuns with glamorous blonde bob at NGV Gala in Melbourne



Melissa Leong attends the NGV Gala 2023 at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Melissa Leong has flaunted an entirely new look as she stepped out at a glitzy event in Melbourne. The former MasterChef Australia judge, 41, turned heads at the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) Gala Saturday night rocking an edgy blonde bob – a stark change from her usual dark brunette hairdo.

It's unclear if Leong's fresh hairstyle is the handiwork of a wig, though she posted a photo of her ensemble on Instagram, writing, "Yes, I'm a blonde now."

Leong was well and truly the red carpet highlight at the event, where, along with her glamorous new cut, she wore a fitted, mermaid style Alexander McQueen red gown and accessorised with Tiffany and Co diamonds.

The Dessert Masters judge was in good company at the opening of the annual NGV Triennial exhibition, with Australian actor Liam Hemsworth posing for photographers with his long-term girlfriend, local model Gabriella Brooks.

However, a source close to the family urged them to speak out and defend their relatives, reports The Telegraph. They said: "For the couple that talked about 'death by a thousand no comments', the silence at this point is deafening."



The latest royal drama has exposed Harry and Meghan's 'self-obsession'



Nations strike deal at COP28 to transition away from fossil fuels

Representatives from nearly 200 countries agreed at the COP28 climate summit on Wednesday to begin reducing global consumption of fossil fuels to avert the worst of climate change, signalling the eventual end of the oil age.

The deal struck in Dubai after two weeks of hard-fought negotiations was meant to send a powerful message to investors and policy-makers that the world is united in its desire to break with fossil fuels, something scientists say is the last best hope to stave off climate catastrophe. COP28 President Sultan al-Jaber called the deal “historic” but added that its true success would be in its implementation.

“We are what we do, not what we say,” he told the crowded plenary at the summit. “We must take the steps necessary to turn this agreement into tangible actions.”

Several countries cheered the deal for accomplishing something that until now eluded decades of climate talks. “It is the first time that the world unites around such a clear text on the need to transition away from fossil fuels,” Norway’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide said.

More than 100 countries had lobbied hard for strong language in the COP28 agreement to “phase out” oil, gas and coal use, but came up against powerful opposition from the Saudi Arabia-led oil producer group OPEC, which said the world can cut emissions without shunning specific fuels.

That battle pushed the summit a full day into overtime on Wednesday, and had some observers worried the negotiations would end at an impasse.

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries control nearly 80% of the world’s proven oil reserves along with about a third of global oil output, and their governments rely heavily on those revenues.

Small climate-vulnerable island states, meanwhile, were among the most vocal supporters of language to phase out fossil fuels and had the backing of major oil and gas producers such as the United States, Canada and Norway, as well as the European Union and scores of other governments.

“This is a moment where multilateralism has actually come together and people have taken individual interests and attempted to define the common good,” U.S. climate envoy John Kerry said after the deal was adopted.

The lead negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States, Anne Rasmussen, criticised the deal as unambitious.

“We have made an incremental advancement over business as usual, when what we really need is an exponential step change in our actions,” she said.

But she did not formally object to the pact, and her speech drew a standing ovation that lasted nearly two minutes.

Danish Minister for Climate and Energy Dan Jorgensen marvelled at the circumstances of the deal: “We’re standing here in an oil country, surrounded by oil countries, and we made the decision saying let’s move away from oil and gas.”

EMISSIONS REDUCTION

The deal calls for “transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner ... so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the

science.”

To some extent, that language describes what has already begun to happen, with some governments enacting policies in recent years to transition to a greener economy. Europe and the U.S. have retired fleets of coal-fired power plants; global installation of renewable power capacity is at record levels and many countries have policies to encourage sales of electric vehicles.

The deal calls on governments to accelerate that - specifically by tripling of renewable energy capacity globally by 2030, speeding up efforts to reduce coal use, and accelerating technologies such as carbon capture and storage that can clean up hard-to-decarbonise industries. A source familiar with Saudi Arabia’s position described the deal as “a menu where every country can follow its own pathway,” saying it “shows the various tracks that will allow us to maintain the objective of 1.5 (degrees Celsius) in accordance with the characteristics of every nation and in the context of sustainable development.”

Several other oil producer countries, including the summit host UAE, had advocated for a role for carbon capture in the pact. Critics say the technology remains expensive and unproven at scale, and say it can be used to justify continued drilling.

Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore also welcomed the deal, but said: “The influence of petrostates is still evident in the half measures and loopholes included in the final agreement.”

Now that the deal is struck, countries are responsible for delivering through national policies and investments.

China, the world’s biggest carbon polluter today, suggested that industrialised countries should lead the way.

“Developed countries have unshirkable historical responsibilities for climate change,” the country’s vice environment minister Zhao Yingmin said after the pact was approved.

In the United States, the world’s top producer of oil and gas and the biggest historical emitter of greenhouse gases, climate-conscious administrations have struggled to pass laws aligned with their climate vows through a divided Congress.

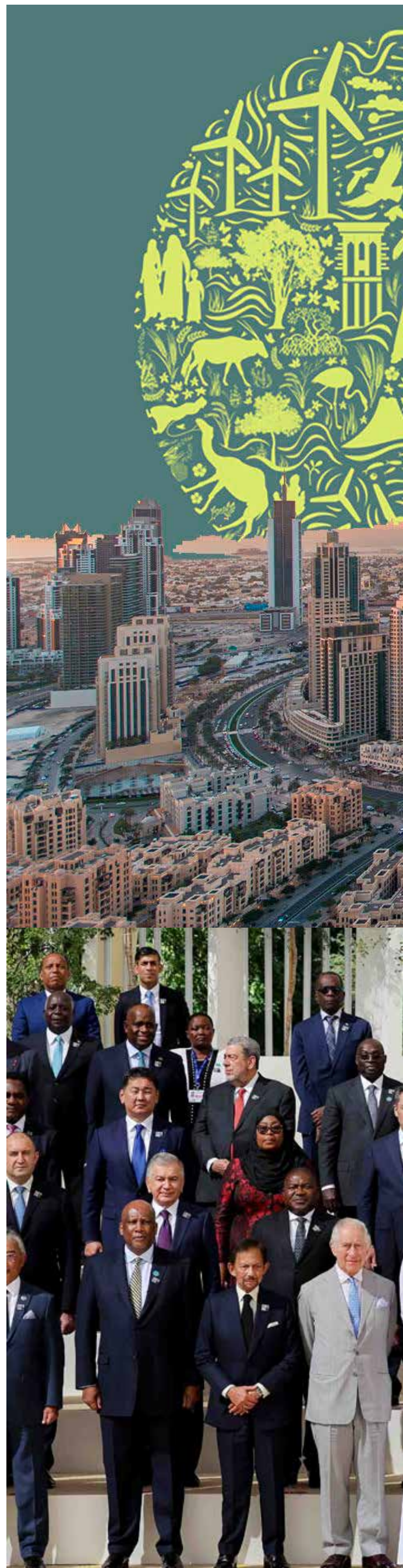
U.S. President Joe Biden scored a major victory last year with passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, which contained hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy subsidies.

Mounting public support for renewables and electric vehicles from Brussels to Beijing in recent years, along with improving technology, sliding costs, and rising private investment have also driven rapid growth in their deployments.

Even so, oil, gas, and coal account for about 80% of the world’s energy, and projections vary widely about when global demand will finally hit its peak.

Rachel Cleetus, policy director at the Union of Concerned Scientists, praised the climate deal, but said it does not commit rich countries to offer more financing to help developing countries pay for the transition away from fossil fuels.

“The finance and equity provisions... are seriously insufficient and must be improved in the time ahead in order to ensure low- and middle-income countries can transition to clean energy and close the energy poverty gap,” she said.







OFFICIAL

Steve Kamper
Minister for Small Business
Minister for Lands and Property
Minister for Multiculturalism
Minister for Sport



Media Release

Minns Government to deliver safety, security and resilience for faith groups across NSW

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

The Minns Government is delivering on our commitment to protect our multifaith community. Faith groups can now apply for a share of \$15 million to upgrade safety and security at their places of worship thanks to the NSW Government’s *Safe Places for Faith Communities Grants Program*.

Under the program, grants of between \$5,000 and \$250,000 will be available for eligible groups to protect important sites where they gather, improve risk mitigation and build the social cohesion and resilience of faith groups.

Funding can be used anywhere in NSW at eligible faith-based centres including places of worship, seminaries, religious museums, religious community centres, religious retreats and places of religious significance, including shrines, faith-based cemeteries or memorials.

This program has been developed in collaboration with key Government and faith stakeholders, as well as the NSW Community and Resilience and Response Plan (COMPLAN) Committee.

Successful grants recipients will also have the opportunity to join a Community of Practice to share knowledge with other faith groups and participate in workshops and information sessions aimed at fostering interfaith collaboration on community safety and wellbeing.

For further information about the *Safe Places for Faith Communities Grants Program* and to register for an Information Session, visit multicultural.nsw.gov.au/safe-places-for-faith-communities-program/

NSW Minister for Multiculturalism Steve Kamper said:

“It’s important that all faith groups across NSW feel they can practice their beliefs in safe space. Especially during times of conflict, everyone deserves to feel safe and secure in their place of worship.”

“NSW is the most successful multicultural and multifaith state in the world. This is a great point of pride, but it is also something that must be actively protected.”

“This program delivers on our election commitment to our multifaith community and has been designed to promote community wellbeing and resilience, as well as interfaith harmony and social cohesion.”

“We need to make sure that everyone, no matter their beliefs, feels safe in this state. We will continue to work with our multifaith communities to ensure this promise is felt.”

Lottery winner who scooped ‘life-changing’ money embroiled in feud with friends



WOMAN WHO SCORED ‘LIFE-CHANGING’ LOTTERY WIN EMBROILED IN FEUD WITH FRIENDS

‘I didn’t tell a soul. But naturally my friends started talking behind my back because they noticed something changed.’

A woman who won a “life-changing” amount of sum on the lottery has detailed how she created a web of lies to cover up her winnings after her friends started becoming suspicious.

The lottery winner, in her 20s, said she scooped up a “whole stack of money, just under seven figures to be exact” earlier this year.

“It sounds kind of old school for my age. I’m not yet 30 but I have always been into buying lottery tickets... It runs in the family,” she told Australian podcast everybody has a secret.

“About eight months ago, I won the lottery. Yes the actual lottery. I could not believe it. I can’t explain the feeling of having your whole life change in an instant.

“Suddenly I could buy a car, I didn’t need to save for two years to go to Europe, I could just buy whatever I wanted.”

The woman said she decided to tell one person in her life — her doting mum who raised her as a single parent.

“When I found out, I wanted to share the news and the money with my mum,” she explained.

“Obviously it took me a few hours to convince her I wasn’t joking and then she just couldn’t stop crying. It changed her life too.”

Cost of Christmas 2023

With the festive season officially in full swing, new research has revealed the cost of Christmas for most Australians.

The average Australian spends \$1479 over the Christmas period on presents, food, alcohol, eating out and travel, according to Finder.

In total, people across the country are expected to spend \$30 billion — a 10 per cent increase on spending in 2022.

Victorians are expected to spend the most of any state, with estimated costs of \$1765 per person. New South Wales comes in second with an estimated cost of \$1657 per person, followed by West Australia with \$1200 per person and South Australians with \$1160 per person.

Queensland has the lowest expected costs of \$1064 per person.

Cartoon

