



July 2024

GREEK TRIBUNE

www.greektribune.com.au - Mobile: 04 0886 5004 - Email: info@greektribune.com.au

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

BoM forecasts a warmer than usual winter across Australia

The Bureau of Meteorology has released a new long-range forecast, warning that Australia is set for a warmer winter, with temperatures likely to be in the top 20 per cent of all historical records.

The Bureau also reported there is an 80 per cent chance of above median temperatures nation-wide, with capital cities four times more likely to experience unusually warm days and nights.

The trend is expected to extend to most of Victoria, large parts of New South Wales, Western Australia, and Queensland.

This will follow a warmer than usual autumn, during which mean temperatures were 0.5 degrees Celsius above the 1961-1990 average.

The previous winter was the warmest on record, with average temperatures 1.53 degrees Celsius above the long-term average.

Rainfall is expected to be typical for most regions, though parts of Western Australia, South Australia, and Queensland may see above average levels.

The Bureau is on La Nina watch with a 50 per cent chance of that system developing later this year.

\$5,000 to victims, to escape violent relationships

A new study from Sydney University has revealed that sexual harassment is widespread and normalised in Australia's retail industry.

Professor Rae Cooper, who led the study, found that 86 per cent of the reported perpetrators were men, and included managers, colleagues and customers.

The study indicated that half of female, and a quarter of male, retail workers faced harassment, with young women being most at risk of being on the

receiving end of sexual harassment.

Common issues included suggestive comments and intrusive questions, but extended to more serious behaviours such as stalking.

In response to the issue, the Australian Retailers Association says it plans to introduce training to address this problem.

Professor Cooper emphasised the need for an industry-wide approach, highlighting employers' legal obligations to protect workers from harassment.

Big city life on the slide as people try to get by

New data from the Regional Australia Institute has shown that millennials are leading the migration from Australia's capital cities to regional areas, continuing a trend that began during the COVID-19 pandemic.

High housing and living costs are driving the exodus of young people from cities, with many relocating to nearby regions.

Sydney saw the most significant out-flow, with

two-thirds of movers heading to regional centres by March 2024.

The Institute's chief executive, Liz Ritchie, noted this shift as a sustained societal change, rather than just a flow-on effect following the pandemic.

Popular destinations include Queensland's Sunshine and Gold Coasts, Lake Macquarie near Sydney, and Greater Geelong and Moorabool region near Melbourne.

Budget aimed at cost of living

The state government says this year's budget will focus on supporting South Australians who need it most as it pledges a \$266.2 million cost-of-living package — while also keeping the budget in the black.

Concession holders in particular are set to benefit and families with school-aged children can look forward to saving \$600 in 2025 through public school fee reductions and the doubling of sports vouchers.

Treasurer Stephen Mulighan says early childhood education and care reform, plus affordable housing are also at the core of the 2024-25 budget.

A \$47 million spend will go towards the development of new accommodation for three major arts organisations, the formation of a new arts investment fund, and the renewal of an ABC and SA Film Corporation partnership.

This comes on top of \$715 million for early education initiatives, funding for the construction of more schools, \$80 million for road safety, money for jetty upgrades, and more.

Mental health

The state government will invest \$5 million in a range of

new mental health programs for young people, including the introduction of virtual paediatric mental health services.

About \$1 million per year will go towards additional staff for mental health services, including mental health nurses.

Health

Another 36 beds will be added at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and a further 20 at the Lyell McEwin Hospital as part of a \$30 million spend.

A further \$58 million will go towards the SA Ambulance Service, of which \$24 million will be spent on new ambulance stations at Marion, Two Wells and Whyalla.

Early education

There will be \$715 million invested in early education under the budget, with \$339.7 million over five years to go towards delivering three-year-old preschool access from 2026.

There will also be \$96.6 million to go towards growing the early education workforce, and an additional \$127.3 million towards developmentally vulnerable children.

A \$14 million investment will be delivered over four years to increase the benefits Aboriginal children receive



Premier Peter Malinauskas and Treasurer Stephen Mulighan

from the three-year-old pre-schools, and invest in early education from Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Schools

Over \$218 million will be delivered for the construction of three new schools around Adelaide.

There will be \$62.7 million for a new preschool and primary school in Mount Barker, which are expected to open in 2028.

A new high school will be built in Adelaide's northern suburbs at a cost of \$155 million. The school is also expected to open in 2028.

Roads

There will be \$80.1 mil-

lion for road safety, which will include \$2.6 million for new signage near schools where the speed limit will be reduced to 40km/hour at priority locations.

Priority push button crossings and new camera will be installed at a cost of \$38.7 million over four years.

Prison beds

More than \$205 million will be spent over four years to deliver another 312 beds at Yatala Labour Prison.

Jetties

An additional annual \$5 million will be delivered from 2027 to 2028 for the maintenance and repair of jetties in South Australia.

New hope for improved trade relations with China

China's Premier Li Qiang has been greeted by hundreds of supporters and some vocal protesters as he arrived in Canberra ahead of high levels talks with Anthony Albanese.

The premier landed in Canberra after a high-profile announcement at Adelaide Zoo, where he confirmed that China would lend two new giant pandas to replace the much loved pair Wang Wang and Fu Ni.

Mr Li — who is notionally the second most powerful leader in China behind President Xi Jinping — declared on arrival that the relationship with Australia was now "back on track after a series of twists and turns."

Mr Li has been shadowed in both Adelaide and on his arrival

in Canberra by hundreds of supporters as well as protesters furious at the Chinese government's crackdowns against religious minorities in Tibet and Xinjiang, as well as political repression in Hong Kong.

After visiting Adelaide Zoo, Mr Li had lunch with Adelaide winemakers in an event designed to highlight the return of Australian wine to China after Beijing's move to unwind heavy tariffs earlier this year.

After visiting Adelaide Zoo, Mr Li had lunch with Adelaide winemakers in an event designed to highlight the return of Australian wine to China after Beijing's move to unwind heavy tariffs earlier this year.

"What we have done ... is to stabilise the relationship with our largest trading partner,



Premier Li Qiang met the Australian Minister for Agriculture and Trade Murray Watt. Also in the photo South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas, SA Governor Frances Adamson AC and federal Foreign Minister Penny Wong

and that has resulted in, as I said, almost \$20 billion of resumed trade with the Chinese government", Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell said.

Senator Farrell also indicated the last remaining trade barrier — an informal ban on live Australian rock lobsters — would soon be removed.

TURKISH INVASION 50th anniversary

Fifty years have passed where Turkey's military occupation and aggression against Cyprus tragically continues unabated since 1974.

The Justice for Cyprus Coordinating Committee SA (SEKA), in association with the Cyprus Community of SA Inc, once again have organised a series of protests on SUNDAY 21st of July and Wednesday 24th of July 2024, to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Turkish Invasion of Cyprus. These events are an expression of our solidarity and support to the people of Cyprus and a mark of honour to those who lost their lives in the struggle for democracy and freedom during the 1974 events.

You are invited to lay a

Community Life



Protest for Cyprus, King William Street, Adelaide 1993

wreath and attend any (or all) of the following activities:

1. Sunday 21st of July at 10.00am: memorial service at the Greek Orthodox Parish of Saint George, 60 Rose St, Mile End SA 5031.

2. Followed at 12.00pm (for 12.30pm): wreath laying ceremony and trisagion at the National War Memorial, North Terrace, Adelaide.

3. A protest rally against the continued illegal Turkish

invasion will then be held on the steps of Parliament, North Terrace, Adelaide. Speeches by representatives of SEKA and the Cypriot Community and representatives of Government and Opposition parties.

4. Wednesday 24th of July at 7.00pm at the Cyprus Community of SA club rooms, a talk on the Current Developments of the Cyprus Issue by an official representative of the Republic of Cyprus, accompanied by the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus in Canberra, Mr Antonis Sammoutis. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.

5. Sunday 14 July at 3.00pm, Projection of the Documentary, "Two Homelands", by Kay Pavlou. At the Cyprus Community of SA club rooms, 6 — 8 Barrpowell Street, Welland. Free Entry, ALL WELCOME.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

ABN: 55 829 388 691

Correspondence to: The Editor, BOX 330, FULHAM GARDENS, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 5024

Phone: 0408 865004

Website: www.greektribune.com.au

E-mail: info@greektribune.com.au



Cultural, social and political events in South Australia

Contact: Harri on 0484 387 818 - or email your community's news or a photo: info@greektribune.com.au



LEFT: A Gala Night hosted by the Australian Hellenic Medical Charity at the Cyprus Community of South Australia on 17 May 2024, raised \$30,000 for the Nicosia hospital. The money will go towards medical equipment for the Hospital's Paediatric Clinic. In the photo, the board of directors of the AHMCI.

MELBOURNE GREEK COMMUNITY CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM Changes proposed at consultation meeting on 2 June

Written by Kostas Karamarkos (Journalist - Melbourne)
What follows, is a summary of the points raised by the participants at the open consultation meeting at The Greek Centre in #Melbourne, on Sunday, 2 June 2024.

The consultation meeting was called by 25 current and non-current members of the Greek Orthodox Community of Melbourne and Victoria (GOCMV), with the objective of discussing publicly any constitutional changes, that will make the organization as inclusive, as representative and as transparent as possible.

The same members maintain that, if the GOCMV is to retain its role as a leading secular and democratic Greek-Australian organization, representing the interests and catering for the educational, cultural and other needs of the wider community into the future, it needs to adopt policies and rules that will engage in an active way, more people in the everyday affairs of the organization. An organisation with a current membership of roughly 1,000 in a community of 180,000 people.

The Board of the GOCMV was represented by board member Costas Stefanidis, who greeted the meeting on behalf of the president of the organization Bill Papastergiadis. Mr Stefanidis was also delegated to carry back to the Board the recommendations of the meeting.

Mr Stefanidis noted - as published in the Greek Community's newsletter last Friday - that the Board of Management of the Greek Community will discuss the feedback provided by the appointed lawyers, who have taken into consideration the constitutional reform submission of members so far. Then, an open consultation meeting with the membership of the organization will be called by the Board, before a Special

General Meeting addresses the proposed changes.

Reminder: All constitutional changes need a 75% majority of those present at a special general meeting, if they are to be adopted.

POINTS RAISED AT THE GREEK CENTRE

1. Recognize in the preamble of the constitution the #FirstNations people of #Australia.

2. Strive for consensus and agreement regarding a #missionstatement that recognizes the current social, cultural, linguistic and other realities of the wider Greek-Australian community and looks towards the future of the GOCMV. For example, see constitution of the Greek Community of Toronto in Canada. The current constitution, the product of a bygone era, is too far removed from the Greek-Australian realities of today.

3. Explore the possibility of re-writing the entire constitution, in a way that reflects today's realities and needs of the Greek-Australian community in Melbourne and in Victoria.

4. Request from the Board of Management the widest possible public involvement/consultation of the constitutional reform proposals that the Board may adopt and circulate them to the organisation's membership, before calling for a Special General Meeting to amend the constitution.

5. While "lawyers" have been appointed to work through this constitutional reform process - as stated in the circulated newsletter- the GOCMV needs to direct its lawyer as to what the vision of the organisation is, via prompt public consultations with its members and the constituency of the wider Greek-Australian community.

6. Set up a working group, from the members consultation initiative, in order to further discuss the proposals, put forward.

7. Merge the submitted



Part of the Gathering at the Melbourne Greek Community Centre, to discuss constitutional changes

proposals into one working/discussion document.

8. Limit the scope of disputation, and work/focus on the points of agreement.

9. Removal of the religious elements/references made in the constitution.

10. Limit the 'terms' of the executive and of the board to 2 or 3. Explore limiting the current duration of the term of the Board back to 2 years, similar to the boards of the Greek Communities of Sydney (NSW) and Adelaide (SA).

11. Use gender neutral terms throughout the constitution.

12. Women representation on the board to be set at 50% and also have provisions for substantive representation and involvement of women in the executive and in all of the sub committees of the GOCMV

Counter proposal - women's participation should be proportional to the current membership ratio.

13. Explore diversity quotas (including 'young people' for example)

14. Establish an auditing committee appointed by members.

15. In the name of transparency and in order to encourage the active involvement of members of the wider Greek-Australian community, have provisions for open board meetings and rotating meeting venues (ie open to members, televised live, selective meeting location - eg school

campuses and churches, like in the past)

16. Membership renewal reference in the constitution: remove the word 'MAY' and replace it with the word 'MUST'. Especially in view of the recent board initiative to remove from the membership registry of the GOCMV, without sending out renewal notices as the practice was for a few decades now, more than 300 members of the organization, many of them first-generation long-term members.

17. Constitutional provisions are needed in order to ensure good governance practices and declarations of any potential conflict of interest by members of the Board of Management are stated prior to all meetings

18. A more proportional representation election system is needed, with provisions to include in the make-up of the board, in a functional way, (for example by not obligating members to vote for all 19 candidates on a ticket). This will ensure that all the views that exist about the current and future directions of the GOCMV, as expressed by members who take part in the elections for the Board of Management will be considered.

19. Introduce long-term goals and plans, for example, a 5,10, 15 plan is needed.

20. Consider 'life membership' as a constitutional amendment.

"We love diversity, but migration too high"

New polling figures from the Lowy Institute have revealed that 48 per cent of Australians believe the country's annual migrant intake is too high, a slight increase from 2019, but lower than its 2018 peak.

Despite this, 90 per cent of Australians view cultural diversity as beneficial, highlighting a complex stance on

immigration. The poll also indicated a drop in those who think the migration rate is "about right," from 47 per cent in 2014 to 40 per cent in 2024.

Additionally, perceptions of China have improved slightly, with 17 per cent now trusting China to act responsibly, up from 12 per cent in 2022.

Heart disease leading cause of death in Australia

Coronary heart disease remains the leading cause of death in Australia, involved in about 20 per cent of deaths, followed by dementia at 18 per cent, hypertension, cerebrovascular diseases, and diabetes.

An Australian Institute of Health and Welfare report found that nearly one quarter of the 191,000 deaths in 2022, had five or more causes listed on death certificates, highlighting the com-

plexity of understanding mortality.

Institute spokesperson Michelle Gourley emphasised that death certificates provide a fuller picture by listing multiple contributing conditions, such as heart attack, diabetes, and COVID-19, alongside the primary cause.

Common direct causes of death include lower respiratory infections, cardiac or respiratory arrest, and sepsis.

New test detects dementia in patients nine years earlier

An international research team has developed a test which can predict dementia with over 80 per cent accuracy, up to nine years before potential diagnosis.

Unlike memory tests or brain shrinkage measurements, this method analyses functional MRI scans to detect changes in the brain's default mode network, the first neural network affected by Alzheimer's disease.

This approach allows for proactive health-care strategies and earlier therapeutic interventions.

The study, led by Professor Charles Mar-

shall from Queen Mary University of London, which also included Associate Professor Adeel Razi from Melbourne's Monash University, used MRI data from over 1100 UK volunteers, assigning each a dementia probability.

The model accurately predicted dementia onset up to nine years in advance, with a two-year margin of error, highlighting social isolation as a risk factor.

The research, published in Nature Mental Health, promises to transform early detection and treatment, improving patient outcomes.

Thousands of new homes put on hold due to rising costs

New figures have revealed that developers have delayed the construction of nearly 40,000 new homes across Australia, despite currently holding building approvals.

According to a KPMG analysis, high interest rates and construction costs have been cited as the main reasons for the delays.

As of December 2023, New South Wales had 15,593 approvals, but unbuilt dwellings, a slight improvement from the previous year.

The figures show that Victoria had

almost 8-thousand approved but unbuilt dwellings.

Rising material costs and interest rates have hindered profitable construction.

Brisbane saw a 3.8 per cent increase in stalled dwellings, while numbers in the ACT nearly doubled.

Experts attribute the delays to a cautious approach by developers, amid uncertain economic conditions.

Despite policy changes, it is expected that Government housing initiatives will take years to impact the market.