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# GREEK TRIBUNE

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## AUSTRALIAN NEWS

### Queensland floodwaters flow into SA township



With a floodwater levee wrapped around their town, residents in the remote South Australian community of Innamincka say they are stocked up and ready for weeks in isolation.

The township of less than two dozen people in South Australia's far north-east has been cut off by road by significant floodwaters flowing through from Queensland.

The Strzelecki Track, the 472-kilometre rural road connecting Innamincka with Lyndhurst, is closed and impassable east of Moomba, according to the State Emergency Service (SES). Innamincka Trading Post co-manager Jayne Whaite said the main priority had been ensuring sufficient fuel supplies.

"We stocked up as much as we could to help out with fuel and food items and stuff like that."

Ms Whaite said

Innamincka's isolation during tourist season would have a "huge impact on the business" but said "people's lives are more important than turning the till over".

Janet Brook, co-owner of the Cordillo Downs Station, said not being able to move cattle was one of the biggest impacts of the roads being cut off.

"We don't know at this stage when those roads will open up to be able to get cattle out," she said.

SES field liaison officer, Matt Warne, said volunteers had arrived in Innamincka on April 5 to assist with flood preparations and supply food, fuel and fodder for livestock.

Outback pilot Trevor Wright has been observing the floodwaters in South Australia's far north-east for the last week.

He said the floodwaters coming down from Queensland have a "huge velocity behind it".

### Public education to receive full funding across Australia

The Australian government has finalised a nationwide agreement to fully fund public education, with Queensland being the last state to sign on.

The deal will provide an additional 2.8 billion dollars in federal funding over 10 years, raising the Commonwealth's contribution to Queensland's public schools from 20 per cent to 25

per cent by 2034. Public schools, which serve many socially disadvantaged and Indigenous students, will benefit significantly.

The funding is tied to education reforms, including individual student support.

The agreement aligns Queensland with other states, such as NSW and Victoria, which secured similar deals earlier in 2025.

## GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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## Federal election approaching on 3 May

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has called a federal election for May 3. With Premier Anthony Albanese and Opposition Leader Peter Dutton presenting their policies for the next parliamentary term, the two men are now set for a short campaign in which they will seek to convince voters that each one of them is the right person to lead the country.

Meanwhile, the annual government budget was tabled earlier this month. The federal budget deficit could be ten times larger than expected within a decade regardless of who wins the upcoming election, according to a new analysis, with neither major party offering voters realistic solutions to address rising cost of living pressures.

Labor's budget included \$35 billion in new election promises to voters, headed by cheaper drugs under the Government subsidy system, relief on energy bills and

a "modest" tax cut from the middle of next year.

Independent economist Saul Eslake said the solution was more likely to involve tax increases than spending increases, given the huge cost pressures on health, social welfare and military spending.

"It is difficult to see how spending can be cut sufficiently in other areas to offset the increases in health care and military spending," he said.

"Reducing the number of public servants, as the Liberals are proposing, will not do this as public servant wages account for just 6.4 per cent of government spending.

The cost of living is likely to dominate the election campaign, with more than two years of high inflation weighing on families and businesses and each party offering its own answers on how to respond.

The field is also set for a



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese left and Liberal Leader Peter Dutton

potentially turbulent election campaign, with the turmoil caused by the US President Donald Trump's new round of tariffs which were announced in early April.

It is noted that if they lose just three seats, Labor would be forced into a minority government, while the Coalition needs to win 19 more seats to be able to govern alone. Based on current opinion polling, pollsters see a minority govern-

ment as the most likely scenario.

Seats which could change hands in South Australia, are, Boothby held by Labor's Louise Miller-Frost by just 3.3% which could go back to the Liberal party's candidate Nicole Flint and the seat of Sturt currently held by James Stevens where the margin is on a knife edge 0.45% and there is every possibility that it could go the Labor Party's Claire Clutterham.

## Tariffs war halts US exports to China as Australia fills the gap

About 300 abattoirs in the United States still have not had their export licences renewed to export beef to China — and it seems Australia is filling the gap.

Before Donald Trump's "Liberation Day" tariff hikes, American beef exporters were already facing problems with their third-largest market.

According to the US Meat Export Federation, American pork and poultry plants had their export registrations with China renewed on March 16, but China "had still not renewed the eligibility of any US beef establishments".

"The majority of US beef production is now ineligible for China," it said.

"This impasse definitely hit our March beef shipments harder and the severe impact will continue until China lives up to its commitments under the Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement."

While some US beef has trickled into China in the past few weeks, ABC Landline has been told the trade has now ground to a halt — especially after China announced retaliation tariffs.

In 2024, the United States exported \$US1.6 billion (\$A2.57 billion) worth of beef to China, making it the third-largest export destination.

Statistics from Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) show Australian grain-fed beef exports to China have ramped up significantly, with 21,885 tonnes shipped in February and March — up nearly 40 per cent on the same period last year.

Speaking at a meat processing industry conference on the Gold Coast this week, Bindaree Food Group's Andrew Simpson said the trade war was creating indirect opportunities.

"If there's a tit-for-tat around the globe and countries like Japan or China push up reciprocal tariffs, it may prevent American beef becoming commercially viable into those regions [and] Australian beef will fill the gap, which could present a short-term opportunity," he said.

Global meat analyst Brett Stuart said Australia would be a clear winner going forward.

"[US beef] sales to China have fallen to zero ... and not



US beef exports to China have ground to halt as trade war heats up

only is the market now closed based on the March 16 production date, but the combined retaliation tariffs by China now take the tariff on US beef to 116 per cent, a level that will quickly halt trade."

But shadow trade minister Kevin Hogan said the trade war between the two biggest economies in the world could hurt demand for Australian exports.

"We're a large exporting nation and we need global growth to be good," he said.

Speaking at the Food Futures conference in Darwin this week, he said most nations, including Australia, had not

grasped the seriousness of what was happening in the world.

"We're now in an era of economic statecraft where it's about national security and national interests, rather than inflation or a balanced budget. These are irrelevant points now," Mr Every said.

"Fundamentally, it will come down to the US trying to set terms to China, decouple where it can, and then saying to everyone else globally — and particularly in the West, like Australia — so, are you with us or not?"

"And if you're not, well, good luck to you."

Source: abc.net.au

### Greek Community Celebrates Easter

As the Lent period came to a conclusion, thousands of Community members across Adelaide attended the week-long Easter celebrations, also known as the Holy Week, following the Passion of Christ.

All the Community's churches reached beyond full capacity in the days leading to Easter Saturday as members made their way to pray for peace, prosperity and good health.

Following the tradition, women of all ages gathered at each of our churches on Thursday to help decorate the Tomb of Christ 'Epitaphio' as well as prepare the church for Good Friday.

Black and purple ribbons

## Community Life



The trisagion and wreath laying ceremony at the Taxiarchis memorial for Greek Independence Day

ran across the churches' interior reflecting the mourning atmosphere for the Passion of Christ, while the morning services on Thursday and Saturday drew thousands of parishioners who came to receive the Holy Communion.

Peaking on Good Friday, the Tomb of Christ dominated in every church reminding churchgoers his sacrifice.

Byzantine hymns were chanted around the Tomb and at around 9.00pm the church procession of the 'Epitaphio' made

its way out and around the block, with thousands of people following its course.

The list of official guests who attended the 'Epitafio' procession on Good Friday at the Community's churches included the Hon Mira El Dannawi MLC representing the Premier Peter Malinauskas, Olivia Savvas MP, David Pisoni MP, Connie Bonaros MLC, Mr Julian Amato, State Liberal Candidate for Adelaide representing the Leader of the Opposition Vincent Tarzia MP, Cr George Demetriou from the City of West Torrens and Cr Stephen Finos from the City of Unley.

The celebrations peaked on Easter Saturday with the traditional midnight mass as thousands of the Community's members flocked to church to attend the Resurrection Ceremony and to receive the Eternal Light.



## 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



**TOP LEFT:** Guests at the celebration of the 25th March Independence Day at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Taxiarihi, in Franklin Street, Adelaide. Amongst others, Ms Lucy Hood representing the Premier Peter Malinauskas, Trian Gonis on behalf of Steve Georganas MP, the Hon Deputy Leader of the Opposition Josh Teague, the Hon Jing Lee MLC, Cr Quin Tran representing Mayor Angela Evans of the City of Charles Sturt, and Cr George Demetriou from the City of West Torrens.

**TOP RIGHT:** Evelina Darzanos with the Australian flag at the Taxiarihis memorial

**LEFT:** Members of the Administrative Council of GOCSA with the Greek Counsel General Ms Alexandra Theodoropoulos at the Olympic Hall for the 25th March celebrations

## QLD youth offenders to face harsh penalties

Queensland's "adult crime, adult time" laws are set to expand, adding over a dozen offences, including arson, torture, rape, and attempted murder.

Premier David Crisafulli said the move fulfils his government's election promise to strengthen laws and prioritise victims.

Under the laws passed in December, children aged as young as 10 can receive adult maximum sentences for serious crimes, with

detention no longer a last resort.

A child's criminal history also carries into adulthood, and media and victims' families will have increased access to Children's Court matters.

The expansion follows recommendations from an expert panel.

Youth Justice Minister Laura Gerber stated the government would continue adding offences to ensure consequences for youth offenders.

## Work agreements hinder women from reporting harassment

Increased use of NDAs are silencing women dealing with workplace harassment.

Women experiencing workplace sexual harassment are often silenced by binding legal agreements, with many companies routinely using these contracts.

Advocates have urged for law reform to prevent misuse of non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) in harassment settlements.

The Work Health and Safety Act mandates workplaces to protect employees from psychosocial hazards, including sexual harassment.

Blanket NDAs can prevent victims from discussing their experiences, even with healthcare professionals.

Changing their minds about disclosure could lead to legal action and financial penalties.

Proposed reforms have suggested that NDAs should require independent legal advice and have limited enforceability periods.

Working Women Queensland is calling for the State government to launch an inquiry into NDA misuse, as a step towards potential law reforms.

## Central Asian states send envoys to Cyprus, accept UN resolutions on occupied north

Central Asian countries Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have pledged support for Cyprus' sovereignty effectively halting Ankara's efforts to use those states as a vehicle for recognition of the occupied northern part of the country, Cypriot and Turkish media have reported.

The three countries are members of the Organisation of Turkic States (OTS), along with Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Kyrgyzstan, while Hungary, Turkmenistan and the unrecognized occupied north of Cyprus are observers.

During an April 4 summit with the European Union in Samarkand, the countries pledged to uphold United Nations Security Council resolutions 541 and 550, which condemn the 1983 unilateral declaration of the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" by Turkey.

Specifically, paragraph 4 of the agreement, states: "The Participants reiterated their commitment to work together for peace, security, promotion of fundamental rights and sustainable development. They reaffirmed their continuing and strong commitment to uphold the UN Charter and the fundamental principles of international law, including \*UNSC Resolutions 541(1983) and 550(1984)\*, on which the enhancement of EU-Central Asia relations is based, in particular the respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, within their internationally



A photo made available by the Kyrgyz President press service shows President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, European Council President Antonio Costa, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, President of Turkmenistan Serdar Berdimuhamedow and President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov attending the EU-Central Asia summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, 04 April 2025. The first EU-Central Asia Summit takes place in Samarkand on 03-04 April 2025.

recognized borders, including within the framework of all international and regional fora, and agreed to refrain from taking any steps that run contrary to them."

A few days later, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan appointed ambassadors to the Republic of Cyprus, in a further shift in regional alignment.

Resolution 541 was adopted by the UN Security Council on November 18, 1983. It called on all States to "respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-alignment of the Republic of Cyprus," as well as not to recognize

any other government of the island except the government of the Republic of Cyprus. Resolution 550, adopted on 11 May 1984, condemned the illegal secessionist activities in the Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus, and called on other member states not to recognize the illegal northern entity.

### SERDAR DENKTASH CALLS ON TURKEY TO RECOGNISE THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

Serdar Denktas, a prominent Turkish Cypriot politician, has called on Turkey to formally recognize the Republic of Cyprus and open an

embassy in the island's internationally recognized government in the south.

Denktas rejected the idea of the Turkish-occupied north merging with Turkey and called on Turkey should recognize the Republic of Cyprus and establish diplomatic relations with the government in the south. He argued that such a move would not harm Turkey or the self-declared breakaway Turkish Cypriot state, recognized only by Turkey. Instead, he said, it would make Turkey the only country recognizing two separate entities on the island, potentially paving the way for alternative political solutions.

## Australian renters need \$130k income to afford

A new report has found Australian renters now need an annual income of at least 130-thousand dollars to comfortably afford an average unit, with rental stress extending beyond the capacity of low-income earners.

The 2025 Priced Out report by Everybody's Home revealed that even those earning 100,000 dollars are spending 38 per cent of their income on rent, well above the affordability threshold of 30 per cent.

In cities like Sydney and the Gold Coast,

rental costs are even higher.

The report found people earning 70,000 dollars would need to spend over half their income on rent, while those on 40,000 dollars per year face extreme rental stress.

Everybody's Home has called for increased social housing and an end to investor tax incentives, arguing that government policies are driving up costs, while low and middle income Australians struggle to secure stable housing.

## Rural healthcare must be at the forefront ahead of elections

Medical groups have emphasised the critical health needs of 7.3 million Australians in rural areas, ahead of the federal election, citing budget gaps.

The federal government allocated 7.9 billion dollars to increase bulk-billed GP visits by 18 million annually, by 2030, with 265 million dollars for GP training, half in rural areas.

Despite welcomed funding, concerns persist over regional

healthcare access and rural maternity care closures.

The National Rural Health Alliance highlighted a 6.55 billion dollars of annual health underspend in regional areas.

Calls for a comprehensive rural health strategy have been made among 53 health organisations, urging election commitments.

Additional measures will target childcare and digital connectivity improvements in rural areas.