



May 2026

GREEK TRIBUNE

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

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Pope Leo blasts 'tyrants' spending billions on war

Pope Leo XIV has blasted the "tyrants" spending billions on war and condemned "an endless cycle of destabilisation and death" after his public spat with US President Donald Trump over the war in Iran.



on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy," Mr Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The US-born pope made his latest comments during a visit to the African nation of Cameroon where he praised peace movements and warned against allowing religion to enter conflicts.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," he said to crowds who had gathered to meet him.

"But woe to those who manipulate religion and the very name of God for their own military, economic and political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth.

The pontiff did not name any individual as he called for a "decisive change of course" that led away from conflict.

Mr Trump has hit out at the pope several times this week for opposing the war on Iran.

"Pope Leo is WEAK

Australian Catholic University's Rome campus director, Dr Claudio Betti, told ABC's The World the US president had lost favour among Italian Catholics for this attack.

A recent survey conducted in Italy by group Youtrend found 79 per cent of Italians disapproved of Mr Trump's handling of the Iran war.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, defended the Pope. "I find President Trump's words towards the Holy Father unacceptable," she said.

"The pope is the head of the Catholic Church, and it is right and normal for him to call for peace and to condemn every form of war", she said.

War forces small supermarkets to lower margins

Smaller and independent supermarkets say they are facing increased pressure to keep grocery prices stable as the cost of keeping shelves full continues to rise.

Increased costs of fuel and fertiliser as a result of trade disruptions in the Middle East have impacted farmers and suppliers, who have passed hikes on to supermarkets.

Drakes director, John-Paul Drake, said he had seen more extra charges from suppliers over the past month.

"Suppliers have been looking at making sure their costs are covered," he said.

"They've been looking at all sorts of different ways to put a fuel tax, a surtax, a fuel levy, call it whatever

you want.

"We are doing everything that we can to make sure we hold down the pricing," he said.

Mr Drake said he wanted the government to be more transparent about fuel supplies to help better inform businesses and consumers.

Master Grocers Australia Independent Businesses Australia director Lincoln Wymer said smaller supermarkets had been absorbing increased delivery fees from suppliers since fuel prices jumped weeks ago.

"The cuts to the fuel excise that were made by the government recently helped us make the decision not to move the prices in the short term," he said.

PM Mitsotakis battles resignation calls over fraud

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis faced a wave of fierce criticism from opposition leaders on Thursday during a heated parliamentary debate.

The government's standing has come under intense scrutiny following a persistent wire-tapping scandal and fresh allegations regarding the EU farm subsidies fraud. While PASOK leader Nikos Androulakis called for snap elections, SYRIZA leader Sokratis Famellos went further, demanding the Prime Minister's immediate resignation.

Mitsotakis struck back, accusing the opposition of sowing division. He called on the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) to expedite its probe into the farm subsidy

scandal, while simultaneously urging the body to abstain from "selective leaks" that he claimed undermine national stability.

Defending his party, Mitsotakis drew a line between constituent service and crime. "There is a difference between an MP helping a citizen and a proven criminal act," he noted, adding that it was to the credit of eleven New Democracy members of parliament that they voluntarily requested the lifting of their immunity to prove their innocence, he said.

Nikos Androulakis, leader of PASOK, placed the blame squarely on the current Prime Minister. "You personally bear the responsibility for this unprecedented crisis of institutions and values," he stated.



"For those who support the 'Maximos system,' everything is permitted. The image you project does not resemble a European democracy.

SYRIZA leader Sokratis

Famellos echoed these sentiments, calling a vote of no confidence "imperative." He accused the government of shielding "fraudsters and thieves" of national and EU funds.

Coalition is outlining a tough new migration policy

A coalition government plans to end Australia's non-discriminatory immigration program and introduce social media vetting for visa applicants if it governs again.

Opposition Leader Angus Taylor would also boot migrants that do not exhibit a belief in a "fair go" from the country under his new headline migration plan.

"We need to put Australian values first and that hasn't been the case in our immigration system in the past and it needs to change," Taylor told ABC Radio.

"(Migrants) must accept our core values and that would mean establishing a legally binding and enforceable values test in the Migration Act as a visa condition."

The coalition has been bleeding votes to the anti-immigration One Nation party backed by a strong showing in the recent South Australian state election.

Without putting a number on the migrant intake target he would pursue in government,

Taylor said he wants to place greater scrutiny on people attempting to come to Australia from countries that are not Western liberal democracies.

"Australia has a non-discriminatory immigration program," Taylor said. "We do not discriminate based on nationality, race, gender, or faith. But for an immigration program to work in the national interest it must discriminate based on values."

Three key measures will seek to "lower the numbers and lift the standards" of Australia's migration program.

They include putting "Australian values" at the centre of migration laws, shutting the door to unauthorised migrants who try to game the asylum system, and giving a "red light to radicals" by strengthening screening processes.

Complying with the Australian values statement will be enshrined into law and a prescribed set of behaviours that constitute a breach of Australian values will be estab-

lished.

"In short, if a visa holder undermines our democratic values, doesn't respect the law, or demonstrates they don't respect our core values, they will be booted out of Australia," Taylor will say.

The Australian values statement is a document prospective migrants must currently sign when applying for a visa, which outlines the values they are expected to uphold.

These include respect for the freedom and dignity of the individual, freedom of religion, commitment to the rule of law, recognising English as the national language, and a "fair go" for all that embraces mutual respect, tolerance, compassion and equality of opportunity.

What behaviours that would constitute a breach of these values and act as grounds for deportation would be fleshed out in government, a spokesperson for the opposition leader said.

Taylor pledged to bring back

temporary protection visas, after the government moved people seeking asylum onto a more permanent visa class.

This will aim to cut down "cheating" of the immigration system and disincentivise overstaying.

Taylor is vowing to establish an enhanced screening coordination centre to identify and block "terrorist sympathisers and security risks" before they enter Australia.

The enhanced screening process would include all applicants being forced to provide their social media accounts when applying for a visa.

The coalition would also establish a joint agency taskforce to boot out overstayers who take advantage of the "appeals merry-go-round".

"What we don't have is a legally binding and enforceable values test in the migration act, and we don't have a cross agency taskforce set up in this way which would receive extra funding," Taylor said.

Greek community celebrates Easter

Following the 40-day Easter Lent of the Orthodox Calendar, thousands of Hellenes across Adelaide celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in what constitutes the most important religious celebration in all of Christendom.

The Greek Orthodox Community's churches commenced the Easter services on Palm Sunday as Holy Week marked the beginning of the Passion of Christ.

According to an announcement from the GOCSA, all the Community's churches reached beyond full capacity in the days leading to Easter Saturday as its 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 Friday morning to help

Community Life



Father Panayiotis of the Archangel's Cathedral on Franklin street, conducted the Resurrection service on Saturday at midnight

decorate the Tomb of Christ 'Epitaphio' as well as prepare the church for Good Friday services.

"Black and purple ribbons 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.

"Continuing on Good Friday, the Tomb of Christ

dominated in every church with thousands attending the Royal Hours service and the litany of the Tomb of Christ reminding churchgoers the sacrifice He made for humanity".

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 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.

The list of official guests who attended GOCSA's services, included the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Nadia Clancy, Aria Bolkus MP, Mayor of West Torrens Michael Coxon and Councillor George Demetriou.

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



Members of the Greek Society of Evians of South Australia celebrated the 50th anniversary of their association. In the photo, from left, Panayiota Spithas, President Andrew Frangiskos, Afro Holmes, Soula Velotti, Dimitri Kiouranis, Costas Likos, Theodoros Petrakis and Bill Nicolas



The Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia celebrated the Greek Independence Day on Sunday 29 March at the Taxiarchis Memorial, Franklin Street. From left, Cr George Demetriou, Consul General Alexandra Theodoropoulou, West Torrens Mayor Michael Coxon, Cr Stephen Finos, GOCSA President Peter Ppiros and Aria Bolkus MP

Farm Scandal: Greek MPs to be charged with fraud

The European Public Prosecutor's Office has, for the first time, detailed the charges involving 11 Greek MPs from the ruling New Democracy party, raising the legal stakes in a farm subsidy scandal that has already put the government under mounting pressure.



Greek PM Kyriakos Mitsotakis

Although Parliament had already received the case file, the underlying offenses had not previously entered the public domain. That has now changed, as European prosecutors set out the legal grounds for seeking the lifting of immunity for the 11 sitting MPs.

The Greek Parliament's Ethics Committee unanimously recommended on Tuesday the lifting of immunity for eleven lawmakers from the ruling New Democracy party whose names appear in a case file submitted by the European prosecutor as part of its investigation into Greece's farm subsidy scandal.

The MPs are Katerina Papakosta, Kostas A. Karamanlis, Ioannis Kefalogiannis, Panagiotis Mitarakis, Konstantinos Tsiaras, Konstantinos Skrekas, Dimitrios Vartzopoulos, Maximos Senetakis, Vasileios Vasiliadis, Christos Boukoros, and Theofilos Leontaridis.

Only two of them appeared in person, while the others

submitted written memoranda regarding the allegations concerning each of them. All eleven had requested the lifting of their immunity.

The recommendation pertaining to the lifting of immunity for the MPs as a result of the farm subsidy scandal is not binding. The final decision will be made by the full Parliament in a roll-call vote, also conducted separately for each of the eleven lawmakers, during a special session expected to take place next week.

The case concerns a recent second case file in which the names of the eleven parliamentarians are included among those implicated. The investigation centers on an organized fraud scheme targeting EU agricultural funds managed by the Greek payment agency, OPEKEPE. The alleged fraud centers on a sophisticated scheme to siphon off millions in EU agricultural subsidies through the agency.

Government launches multi-million-dollar fuel saving campaign

The federal government is launching a multi-million-dollar advertising campaign encouraging Australians to reduce car use as the global oil crisis persists.

Dubbed "Every little bit helps", the information campaign will roll out this Monday across television, digital and outdoor advertising sites, such as billboards and posters.

Along with asking the public to consider using their car less, the ads promote tips to improve vehicle fuel efficiency, such as "driving smoothly" and "unloading excess weight".

The campaign will cost the government up to \$20 million and comes two weeks after national cabinet met and endorsed the four-stage National Fuel Security Plan.

In a statement, Minister for Infrastructure Catherine King said the campaign would help the government communicate

its plan to the public.

"The rollout of this campaign and National Fuel Security Plan ensures that we can get the public the information they need, and keep them updated if and when the situation may change."

According to the government, Australia is currently at the second stage of the plan "Keep Australia moving", which is characterised by local fuel disruptions and requires governments to put in extra effort to secure supplies from trading partners.

The announcement of the "Every little bit helps" campaign came just hours after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese landed back in Australia, having signed a beefed-up agreement with his Singaporean counterpart Lawrence Wong.

Mr Albanese and Mr Wong agreed to "make maximum efforts" to keep fuel and gas flowing between the two



"Every little bit help", says the Government (Photo ABC)

nations.

Energy Minister Chris Bowen has hailed Mr Albanese's visit to the South-East Asian country as a major success.

According to the energy minister's latest update, Australia's petrol and jet fuel reserves have fallen, while diesel has risen.

Mr Bowen said the nation has 38 days' worth of petrol, 31 days' worth of diesel, and 28 days' worth of jet fuel in

reserve.

The energy minister has assured Australia is as well-placed as possible amid the ongoing oil crisis.

Mr Bowen also confirmed 57 tankers carrying some form of fuel are en route to Australia, and four weeks' worth of orders have been secured.

"So for the next month, we have 4.1 billion litres of fuel locked in, confirmed for Australia."

Freight reforms fast-tracked to allow heavier, longer trucks on SA roads

Trucks will soon get longer and heavier on South Australian roads in a bid by the state government to ease the pressure of the growing fuel crisis.

Reforms to heavy vehicle limits, which were fast-tracked by the government, came into effect this week.

The government said the reforms would mean fewer trucks were needed and could reduce fuel usage by up to 18 per cent, in addition to unlocking another 100 road networks in rural and remote areas for freight transport.

Trucking industry bodies have welcomed the move, saying raising the maximum vehicle weight limits and allowing tri-drive rigid trucks and prime movers on more roads will better align South Australia's trucking rules with other states and territories.

However, some in the sector said the new reforms would have no meaningful impact on their bottom line.

Robin Hughes, who owns and operates a business freighting quarry material in Booleroo Centre in SA's Mid North, was unsure whether businesses like his would benefit.

"Unless organisations already have these trailers in their fleet

[that can carry additional weight] and they can optimise those trailers, they can't take advantage of it," Mr Hughes said.

"For people like myself, who own all our gear, we would have to invest and wait for trailers to be built with different axle configurations. That's just too much outlay for what little gain I think you can get out of it."

Before the fuel crisis, filling his truck with diesel every second day would cost about \$2,000. That has risen to nearly \$5,000.

Mr Hughes said he was also worried that, even if he were to take more tonnage, it would end in only negligible savings.

"Generally speaking, when you put a heavier load on a truck, the truck uses more fuel," he said.

However, trucking industry groups welcomed the move as the sector suffered amid rising fuel and operational costs linked to the conflict in the Middle East.

"Road transport operators can put more in their trucks [and] use bigger trucks to get more efficient movement of goods around the state," Motor Trade Association SA/NT general manager Kaes Cillessen said.

The reforms come after



recent federal cuts to the fuel excise and the heavy vehicle road user charge that were expected to save operators 32.4 cents per litre over the next three months.

Mr Cillessen said the changes were similar to those previously made in other states.

"The industry have told us that harmonisation is really important," he said.

However, he said differing rules between jurisdictions would still be a challenge for operators.

"I think for any operator running routes across the country, they would prefer to work to the same rules and frameworks," Mr Cillessen said.

The state government said the reforms also removed red tape around road use permits.

"Rather than having an arduous system and scheme by notice and administrative measures ... we now will be defaulting to allow all safe, secure, well-engineered trucks to access these routes," Transport Minister Joe Szakacs told the ABC's

SA Regional Drive's Narelle Graham.

Another concern raised after the reform announcement was the potential wear on roads that would carry heavier trucks than before.

Mr Cillessen said while there would be an increased impact on roads, he said the effects would be marginal.

Mr Shearer said having fewer trucks on the road could ease the wear on roads.

Source: ABC