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[No Cabinet discussions on US nuclear partnership: Crean](#) .A Federal Government frontbencher [says](#) **Cabinet has not been discussing whether Australia will [continue](#) its involvement with a nuclear partnership with the United States, which could mean nuclear waste is brought back into the country. Minister for Trade, Simon Crean, has [told](#) the ABC there has not been a "collective discussion" about Australia's future membership of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and would not discuss the matter further. However, ABC's AM program was told earlier today that Cabinet has decided to continue the country's involvement in the program. "That's something you should direct to [Resource Minister Martin Ferguson]," he said. Former prime minister John Howard signed up to the agreement during the APEC summit last September and at the time Labor opposed the move. The developments emerged a day before the Government releases its green paper on climate change and a carbon emissions trading scheme. In return the spent fuel is sent back to the supplier so it can not be reprocessed into nuclear weapons. The partnership enables member countries which also include Russia, France and Japan to ship nuclear fuel into energy hungry countries. In August last year, the now Minister for Infrastructure, Anthony Albanese, described the partnership as a Bush administration program which would see Australia become the world's nuclear waste dump and further engage the nation in the nuclear fuel cycle. The then government argued that did not mean Australia would be used as an international nuclear waste dump. "The only reason that the Rudd Government could stay involved in this deal is because they are not closing down the option of bringing America's nuclear waste to Australia," he said. Alec Marr of the Wilderness Society told AM Cabinet's continuing support is even more curious given the Labor Government's opposition to nuclear power. But this is an easy one. "The Rudd Government has many difficult issues on its plate, particularly when it comes to environmental issues. Adapted from a report by Samantha Hawley for AM, July 15." A spokesperson for Minister MArtin Ferguson says that the Australian Government is not considering any involvement with the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership which requires the storing of nuclear waste from other countries or the establishment of an enrichment program.**

[Produce it or lose it. Govt tells gas suppliers](#) .The Federal Government is warning mining companies **they could lose their leases if they fail to develop untapped domestic gas reserves. Gas supply issues** have caused serious problems in Western Australia in recent months. He [says](#) it is **not in the national interest to have companies sit on the supplies indefinitely. Speaking to [industry](#) heavyweights in Darwin today, the Federal Resources Minister Martin Ferguson said companies should move to production as soon as it is practical." The minister also urged industry to engage with the Federal Government in its draft carbon emissions trading scheme. "I have therefore asked my department to more rigorously apply the commerciality test to to retention lease applications and renewals, the legislation from day one has always been premised on use it or lose it. The managing director of MEO Australia, a company exploring off the coast of Australia, also put methanol forward as the answer of the CO2 challenge. He was one of many to label LNG as a key resource for the future, as it produces less carbon emissions. The company is considering Darwin and Marrett Island off the Western Australia Kimberley coast to build its LNG plant. And**

Mr Ferguson refused to take sides on the Inpex debate, telling the conference he no preference on where the gas company built its multi-billion dollar project in Australia.

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[NEW A than more CONNELLY Darkness Harry](#) A Darkness more than Light - Michael Connelly Read by Michael Beck A Harry Bosch Novel - abridged Brand New: abridged Still shrink wrapped 5 CDs 6 Hours A Darkness more than Light - Michael Connelly Harry Bosch is up to his neck in a case that has transfixed all of celebrity-mad Los Angeles: a movie director is charged with murdering an actress during sex and then staging her death to make it look like a suicide. Bosch is both the arresting officer and the star witness in a trial that has brought the Hollywood media pack out in full-throated frenzy. Meanwhile Terry McCaleb is enjoying an idyllic retirement on Catalina Island when a visit from an old colleague brings his former world rushing back. It's a murder the unreadable kind of murder he specialized in solving back in his FBI days. The investigation has stalled and the sheriff's office is asking McCaleb to take a quick look at the

[AudioBook Unabridged CUSSLER](#) The Navigator - Clive Cussler Read by Scott Brick A Kurt Austin Adventure - Unabridged More Clive Cussler Audiobooks [CLICK HERE](#) Brand New: Unabridged Still shrink wrapped 12 CDs 14.5 Hours Abridged The Navigator - Clive Cussler (Read by Scott Brick) Clive Cussler brings back his NUMA team and hero Kurt Austin for his latest politically charged action thriller. When a group of killers becomes desperate to lay claim to a statue long missing from a Baghdad museum Kurt and his team find themselves pulled into the hunt while trying to rescue a UN investigator. . About the Author Clive Cussler Clive Cussler the Grand Master of the American action adventure novel grew up in Alhambra California. He later attended Pasadena City College for two years but then enlisted in the Air Force during the Korean War where he served as an aircraft mechanic and flight engineer in the Military Air Transport

[Radioactivity fears force ABC to abandon new Brisbane site](#) .The ABC has decided not to build its new Brisbane headquarters on a site in Newstead. ABC managing director Mark Scott says testing found elevated levels of radioactive material in the area. In a statement to ABC staff, Mr Scott said following completion of site remediation work, the ABC discovered the possibility of radioactive contamination affecting parts of the Newstead site. He says the organisation has commenced action in the Supreme Court to cancel the purchase of the land. "The breast cancer cluster among staff who worked at the former ABC studios at Toowong and the evacuation of those studios as a result of those health concerns, is

well known. "The existence of any elevated levels of radiation is of great concern to the ABC," he said. Mr Scott said the action had not been undertaken lightly. **"Consequently the ABC has today terminated the contract of sale on the Newstead land and commenced action in the Supreme Court in Queensland to vindicate our position. "In planning a new Brisbane headquarters that will house our staff for the next 40 years we are seeking to remove, to the maximum extent possible, any risk factors in relation to occupational health and safety matters. "However, the health and wellbeing of our staff is the overriding priority for the ABC," he said. Staff are currently working in seven temporary sites in Brisbane." Staff moved out of the ABC's Toowong offices after a breast cancer cluster was discovered in December 2006. "We will immediately begin work on identifying alternate sites," he said. Mr Scott said the ABC Board and management of the ABC does not believe the Newstead site can meet the ABC's requirements. "I know that Brisbane staff have been examining forward to seeing construction begin on the new building," he said. He said he regrets the delay these unforeseen events will cause to the Brisbane project." - Watpac standing firm - Developer of the site, Watpac, says it will fight the matter in the Supreme Court. "Rest assured that the design work and the input from staff into the project will not be lost, but is transferable to a new site. "Furthermore, Queensland Health, known as Radiation Health in their letter to the EPA, certified that the sale site had been successfully remediated," he said. Managing director Greg Kempton has told ABC Radio's PM that the site met the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standards." Michelle Rae from the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) says management need to find a permanent headquarters for staff as soon as possible. "The contract is now unconditional and Watpac regards the ABC as being in breach of its contractual obligations. "So we want to actually talk to members and resolve some of the issues they might be facing. "One of the things that we're concerned about is that [current accommodations] were always meant to be interim, and now that Newstead's not going to happen it's becoming more of a permanent fixture," she said. "We find it very encouraging to hear that the ABC are taking serious the advice they've received on this analysis," she said. "We find it very encouraging to hear that the ABC are taking serious the advice they've received on this analysis," she said. "What we hope is that they can resolve their long-term accommodation issues as soon as possible but always maintain staff's health and safety as a priority."**

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[Drivers spared emissions trade price pain](#) .The ABC has confirmed that transport will be included in the Federal Government's emissions trading scheme when Climate Change Minister Penny Wong unveils the plan later today, but that motorists will be shielded for at least three years. In an effort to soften the impact on motorists and prevent petrol price hikes, the Government is to go against the strong views of climate change adviser Professor Ross Garnaut and regularly cut petrol excise to make sure the emission trading scheme does not push up the fuel prices. "What we've decided to do in the first instance is to provide relief from the emissions trading scheme when it comes to petrol excise and that relief is being provided because petrol has already gone up around 30c a litre this year alone," Federal Treasurer Wayne Swan [told](#) AM. But the adjustment of petrol excise will be reviewed three years after the start of the scheme in the federal election year of 2010. "We're recognising the dramatic impact on the price of fuel in the last six months

or so, the impact it has had on [households](#), and therefore we will provide relief to those households to protect them from any further increases flowing from the pollution reduction scheme. "Anyone who [thinks](#) families need more incentive to cut their fuel use doesn't really live in the real world. Politically, the plan gets the government over the hurdle of the 2010 election and possibly over the next election cycle as well." The move acknowledges the political sensitivity of petrol prices and the particular electoral dangers to the Government if climate change measures make it more expensive to fill up the family car. The Government argues that the three-year buffer will give motorists time to buy better cars with better emissions standards. Professor Garnaut has repeatedly warned that excluding petrol from an emissions trading scheme or giving direct compensation for the price effects of the scheme blunts the message about discouraging motorists from using high carbon energy. "On such a profoundly important issue, the early signs are that the government is taking a cynical approach to the entire greenhouse issue," Mr Hunt told AM. But Opposition climate change spokesperson Greg Hunt says the government's plan for petrol price relief is a cynical exercise. "To the extent that they've adopted the excise offset which we outlined, proposed, and which they attacked, that's a positive step. "What we've seen is a new tax on petrol but a holiday until after the election. NRMA President Alan Evans has welcomed the decision to cut the petrol excise. "But to the extent to which its simply being done until after the election which is effectively a fraud on voters, that is a very cynical approach," Mr Hunt said. "[We need to] off-set it until we can stabilise the system, get speculators out of the oil market, and get a much more stable oil supply system, particularly focusing on alternative fuels. "I think we've got to make sure that transport is included in the emissions trading scheme, but recognise the critical role fuel plays in the economy," he said. But the Australian Conservation Foundation's Tony Mohr says that cutting petrol excise is a second-best option which will leave the Government without much-needed revenue that it could have invested in public transport." Green groups have welcomed the inclusion of transport in the carbon trading scheme, saying the move will save about 14 per cent of Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions, or 42 million tonnes of carbon dioxide. "It is just not good enough to cut out part of the problem. "Cutting excise to compensate for fuel prices really short-changes the Government's ability to invest in things like public transport which will provide the long-term solutions for both the fuel price rises, but also for emissions," he said." . We need to make sure that we make more of an effort to reduce transport emissions

[Govt says WYD powers needed to maintain safety](#) .The Full Bench of the Federal Court has been told [new](#) powers given to police for World Youth Day (WYD) are unconstitutional and cover an unreasonable area of Sydney. The regulations allow police to detain and fine anyone who annoys or inconveniences pilgrims or distributes items without authorisation. Members of the group are vowing to go ahead with protests even if they are deemed illegal. Two members of the protest group, the NoToPope coalition, are challenging the powers [saying](#) they are unconstitutional because they restrict freedom of [speech](#). Lawyers for the activists also say the definition of "annoying" is not clear enough. During today's hearing the court heard the powers can be used up to 500 metres from a WYD venue, which means most of Sydney's CBD will be covered. "New South Wales should not be a police state, we should not feel threatened in going into an area in Sydney with a condom and a T-shirt which criticises the pope's position on contraception, abortion rights and his homophobia," she said. The Court will announce its judgement next Tuesday and protester Rachel Evans hopes she will be able to demonstrate legally.

[Advisers 'collected \\$2.4b in super commissions'](#) .With superannuation losses expected to be the worst in 20 years, Australians are being urged to take a close look at the hefty commissions paid to financial advisers. A [new](#) report out today shows retail superannuation funds paid advisers a staggering \$2. The market volatility will deliver negative returns for many super funds, with most down by an average 5 per cent.4 billion during 2007 as retirement investments peaked and then sank as the share market correction hit. The network's executive director David Whiteley - who commissioned the research [house](#)

Rainmaker Information to scrutinise fees - has told radio an estimated \$862 million in sales commissions was paid on compulsory super contributions alone. The Industry Super Network, which represents industry super funds, says the fees and commissions are "indefensible" given the negative returns most Australians are about to receive. Each year hundreds of millions of dollars are paid from compulsory super contributions alone," Mr Whiteley said. "Sales commissions erode individual and national savings. "Sales commissions have a two-fold effect; they create a conflict of interest for the financial adviser and erode retirement savings. "Given current market volatility there will inevitably be greater scrutiny of fees and commissions by super fund members, and growing community disquiet about sales commissions being paid by retail super funds to financial advisers. The Rainmaker report also shows that financial advisers received almost \$6 billion in fees and commissions over the past three years." Mr Whiteley said the Rainmaker data showed that over a 40-year working life, fees and commissions could have a considerable impact on the retirement savings of members. Banning sales commissions would evidently lift national savings," Mr Whiteley said. "Any debate about national savings and the adequacy of retirement savings must take into account the effect of sales commissions. . The renewed concerns about fees and commissions comes as Superannuation Minister Senator Nick Sherry scrutinises fees and commissions paid to financial advisers

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[Rudd throws weight behind lemma's premiership](#) .Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has thrown his support behind New South Wales Premier Morris lemma. Several [newspapers](#) have reported that the ALP is seeking to replace Mr lemma as a result of concerns over [poor](#) public opinion polls and

his electricity privatisation plans. "Morris lemma has taken really tough decisions on the future of the electricity industry there, and that's why I support him," he said. Deputy Premier John Watkins yesterday denied Mr lemma's position was under threat and Mr Rudd has told ABC1's Insiders program the Premier has his full support." . "I think he has done a good job on this very, very difficult debate, and I think premiers such as him are fully deserving of support, and he certainly has mine

[Rudd flags Aust. Indonesia natural disaster response pact](#) .Australia and Indonesia will propose a mechanism to speedily deploy military assets to respond to natural disaster in the Asia Pacific, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd [said](#). The proposal will be submitted to leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum meeting in Lima, Peru in November, Mr Rudd said in a public lecture in Singapore. "I believe we as a region must prepare," he [said](#), citing Red Cross figures showing that 241 natural disasters struck the Asia Pacific last year, resulting in more than 15,000 deaths. "Australia and Indonesia are going to take a proposal to the APEC leaders [meeting](#) in Lima in Peru this year about regional disaster management coordination," he told diplomats, business executives, academics and students. Mr Rudd noted that when natural calamities strike, it is often the assets of the armed forces that can be "rapidly, effectively and immediately" mobilised. This year a cyclone in Burma and an earthquake in China cost more than 150,000 lives, he added. Mr Rudd said the series of natural disasters in the region had reminded governments that the response to these calamities is often beyond the power of any individual country, no matter how big. "Therefore, we do need as a region to evolve a mechanism which enables a quick, speedy and coordinated deployment of armed forces assets to meet the challenge of natural disasters as and when they arise," he said. "In responding to a crisis, the first 24, 48 hours or 72 hours are the most critical. "But if we pool our resources and if we coordinate our assets, we can do more and we can get better results," he said. So what we need in this region are effective regional mechanisms to facilitate a quick response." -

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[Court reserves decision in Ferguson appeal](#) .The Court of Appeal in Brisbane has reserved its decision on a legal challenge in the case involving convicted paedophile Dennis Ferguson. The 60-year-old was about to face trial on two counts of indecent [treatment](#) of a child. The Director of Public Prosecutions, Tony Moynihan, told the court that Judge Botting's decision was extraordinary and the case should have been put to a jury. But District Court Judge Hugh Botting dismissed the case three weeks ago, ruling Ferguson could not get a fair trial and that the Crown case was weak. Defence lawyer Peter Callaghan SC

[said](#) the information available on the internet had put the case into a category that had not existed before. **He said even if jurors had already formed an opinion about a case, it did not mean they were biased. "It's an insult to Queenslanders everywhere that we can't separate the chaff from the hay," she said.** Outside court, child protection advocate Hetty Johnston says the case should be decided by a jury. **"At the end of the day the community does have a right to know and the media are our eyes and our ears, and the community needs to know this stuff. "Of course people understand what this guy is up for, what he is and I just think it's an insult."**

[Qantas chief tips 100,000 aviation jobs will go](#). The chief executive of Qantas, Geoff Dixon, says the **global aviation industry** is likely to shed 100,000 jobs in the next six months. Mr Dixon has told a **business lunch in Sydney that high oil prices will be a major driver of an new aviation world order. "Right now airlines around the world are cutting routes and capacity, grounding and retiring aircraft and unfortunately shedding staff," he said. He says many airlines will close and major** new global airlines will emerge as the result of mergers and takeovers, but he expects Qantas to survive as an independent airline. **"In the last six months alone 24 airlines have gone or closed completely. "It's likely that 100,000 jobs will be lost before the calendar year is out. "[They will be] unable to cope with the rising fuel prices and they will be swallowed up by takeovers or by mergers which is unusual for this industry.** "Over the next 12 years many more airlines will vanish, many." Last week Qantas announced about 1,200 jobs will be cut in Australia and 300 positions cut from call centres in the United States and Britain. **"The work that Qantas has done to date means that we will avoid this dark destiny. He has also directed blame at the Federal Government's carbon trading emissions scheme. Mr Dixon blamed the job cuts on surging world oil prices and the airline's continuing pay dispute with aircraft engineers. - Green Paper - Mr Dixon also signalled that the Federal Government will be put under pressure to grant concessions to the emission intensive aviation industry. The Federal Government said Qantas's decision to cut the 1,500 jobs was extremely disappointing. Mr Dixon says while Qantas's new planes are very fuel efficient, they must use fossil fuels. He says the Government's Green Paper has airlines paying 100 per cent of of their carbon permit obligations, unlike other emission intensive industries. "It is a long way out, [it] certainly won't be for the next 15 to 20 years. "Qantas is involved with another airline which is confidential at the moment in looking at alternate sources," he said. "There will be many demands, including competing demands from different sectors, and we will continue to actively consult with business and the community," she said." Climate Change Minister Penny Wong is defending the industries chosen for transitional assistance. . Mr Dixon says the Government needs to understand the necessity and benefit of a strong global airline to an island continent**

[Crown Prince Frederick locked outside in Tas](#). Future king of Denmark Crown Prince Frederick has arrived in Hobart to spend quality time with his family. **But it did not all go to plan, as he was left waiting for Princess Mary who was not home when he arrived. But when he arrived at the princess's sister's house** in west Hobart, no one was home. Prince Frederick and his security guards arrived on a budget airline just before noon, and he was whisked away to see his wife and children. **Danish magazines have been speculating about what sort of reception he would get from Princess Mary, after it was revealed he let his hair down at a playboy themed nightclub in Beijing. After a quick call to his wife, Prince Frederick was left waiting. As the princess drove up to the house, the Crown Prince raced around to the back of car to get his two-year-old son Christian. But it seems all has been forgiven. The Crown Prince also greeted his nieces and the Princess Mary's best friend Amber Petty. Princess Mary greeted her husband with a kiss and then retrieved one-year-old Isabella from the car. The Danish royals are expected to leave Tasmania on Thursday.** With both children in his arms, the prince was all smiles.

[NSW in rights push for lesbian mums](#). The New South Wales Government wants a federal law amended so children of lesbian couples can seek child support if their parents separate. **State Attorney-General John Hatzistergos says** co-mothers are not recognised in Family Court proceedings under the current laws. **"It's important that the laws be amended to**

ensure that these children are treated in the same way that children of heterosexual relationships are, so that in the event that the parents split up, there is an entitlement for that child to be able to seek child support from co-mothers," he said. Mr Hatzistergos says he will ask the Federal Government to change the Family Law Act to include lesbian parents at a meeting of attorneys-general this week. "And bearing in mind those facts, it's logical to ensure that we have a civilised way of ensuring the economic security of these children. "It's important to recognise that these relationships exist and these children exist, whatever one might think about them. The reforms allowed both mothers to appear on their child's birth certificate." The State Government the previous month expanded the rights of NSW children with lesbian parents, clearing the way for children from lesbian couples to inherit money from and receive workers' compensation on behalf of their non-birth parent.

[Pre-training needed for Indigenous scheme to work: council](#) .The Kimberley Land Council says basic education levels among Indigenous people need to be improved if a new employment scheme is to have any chance of success. Australia's richest man and the head of Fortescue Metals, Andrew Forrest, has proposed a plan to employ 50,000 Indigenous people over the next two years with the backing of the private sector. Kimberley Land Council executive director Wayne Bergman says if the plan is going to work, pre-employment training needs to start now. The Federal Government is promising to provide the training places needed to achieve the target. "We need a lot of pre-training to get people ready to join the mining industry or any kind of industry. "The biggest challenge is that most Aboriginal people's numeracy and literacy levels aren't that good and aren't sufficient to be able to do the general mine training courses," he said. "We need to start focusing children as young as grade two and ensure that they are starting to establish the basic foundations in numeracy and literacy. "We need to have a longer term target than two years I think, we need to establish cradle to grave strategies for employment and training. "From the highest in the land to the employers of two or three people only, the question to me is how can I help," he said." Mr Forrest says his consultation with the private sector has been incredibly positive." - Scheme welcomed - Prime Minister Kevin Rudd says the program could be a breakthrough in the effort to improve the conditions of Aboriginal Australia. "I'm gratified by that and I believe this is now an idea of Australian employers, not of mine, of Australian employers whose time has come. "Far better to set some ambitious goals, even if you fall short and I commend Andrew [Forrest] for his ambition. "What I do know is that unless you set targets, unless you set goals - we have one as a Government it's called closing the gap - you turn around in five, 10 or 15 years and there's no progress," he said. "A welfare-only response to these communities is precisely the wrong way to go," he said." Mr Rudd says the program is part of an overall plan to help Indigenous people. "And that's where corporate Australia comes in and I look forward very much to partnering with our major Australian corporations in what is their initiative. "We've got to get housing right, we've got to get education right, we've got to get health right but we've also got to get jobs right. "I've hung around corporate Australia for a number of years, I've heard a lot of goodwill from people but I've never been actually sure about whether those doors are openable from the outside," he said." A working group has been set up to oversee the scheme, including Noel Pearson, who says he is thrilled with the idea." . "Andrew [Forrest] assures me - and I'm sure he's correct about this - that these doors are there for the opening

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Toad Together Days with Frog and Toad Listen Here for Audio Except About The Author Arnold Lobel: Arnold Lobel (born May 22 1933 died December 4

[NSW urged to learn from WYD transport success](#) .Former Roads and Traffic Authority director Ken Dobinson says the [New](#) South Wales Government should draw lessons from the success of Sydney's public transport system during World Youth Day celebrations. Mr Dobinson says the system ran smoothly, despite hundreds of thousands of extra people crowding the city, because buses, trains and ferries were better coordinated and the different transport authorities worked together. "All of the transport bodies came together and [worked](#) as one to provide a comprehensive plan," he said. He [says](#) it shows what could be achieved on a daily basis. We still have all the silos operating independently. "That's what we're missing when we look at Sydney's transport every day." NSW Transport Minister John Watkins says transport workers were the backbone of support for the celebrations. "Never the twain shall meet, never shall we prepare a comprehensive plan for Sydney. "That's only happened due to the thousands of rail and bus workers. "Public transport over the last week really has worked tremendously well and in particular, over Saturday and Sunday, where very large crowds have moved in and around and through the CBD," he said. Ms Kenneally says there were some complaints about blocked toilets and a lack of bins at yesterday's papal mass, but the Government will learn from that." The State Government's spokeswoman for World Youth Day, Kristina Kenneally, says it will be learning from the experience of hosting World Youth Day in its bid to attract more international events to Sydney. "Certainly, the lessons of the Olympics helped us very much for World Youth Day. "What we'll do now is look at the event, look at what worked well and as we did after the Olympics, we'll look at what we could have done better," she said." - '\$230m generated' - The Sydney Chamber of Commerce estimates the event has generated more than \$230 million in economic activity. We imagine that the lessons from World Youth Day will help us to bid and win, we hope, the FIFA World Cup in 2018. Ms Forsythe says 200,000 pilgrims visited the city during the quietest time of the year, significantly bolstering the economy. Its executive director, Patricia Forsythe, says a wide range of businesses in Sydney benefited from the event. Workers have five weeks to clean up the site before racing returns in the first week of September. As the impact of World Youth Day is debated, work will begin this week on returning Randwick Racecourse to racing condition after yesterday's papal mass there. "We anticipate being ahead of schedule as well," he said. World Youth Day chief operating officer Danny Casey says there should not be any problem restoring the racecourse to working order. I don't think there's much doubt about that. "We've done so much hard work to make sure we protect the racing and training surfaces, so we're very confident with what we've done that when they're all pulled up, everything will be back on schedule."

[Relative says Corby's father was drug dealer](#) .A relative of Schapelle Corby says the convicted Bali drug smuggler's late father was part of the drug trade in northern Queensland for three decades. Before his death Michael Corby Senior repeatedly denied he had anything to do with the drugs found in his daughter's possession in Bali. He says Mr Corby moved large amounts of marijuana throughout the area. His cousin Alan Trembath told ABC TV's Lateline [program](#) that in the 1980s Mr Corby was well known as a drug dealer in Mackay. "I said 'what do I got to do, go and kill somebody for it?'" "And he [Mr Corby] [said](#) 'No - [I'll] get you to take a boat up to Cedar Bay and pick up a lot of marijuana and bring it back to Mackay and you'll get 80 grand for it. "He [said](#) do you want to earn 80 grand?," Mr Trembath said. Mr Trembath says he is sorry for Schapelle Corby and believes she simply followed her father into the drug trade." He says he refused the offer in fear of serving serious jail time whilst trying to bring up his three young children. - Drug dealing links - In the 1980s, Michael Corby moved to a small town called Iveragh near Gladstone on the central Queensland coast where he lived next door to Tony Lewis who he met whilst mining in the central town of Middlemount. "Honestly, I don't think Schapelle would have known any different, because she would have been around drugs all her life," he said. In a recent documentary about Schapelle Corby, Lewis denied that his next door neighbour knew about his marijuana crop. In September 2004, the Queensland police

raided Lewis's property and discovered five kilos of marijuana in vacuum sealed plastic bags and thousands of dollars in cash. Her statement became the basis of a Queensland police crime intelligence report. Police informant Kim Moore tipped off the police about Tony Lewis's marijuana operation and has confirmed three weeks before Schapelle Corby's arrest in September 2004, she made a statement to the Queensland police naming Michael Corby in the transport of large quantities of drugs to Bali. - Family tensions - Mr Trembath says Michael Corby's drug dealing caused tensions in his family. Flight records for Michael Corby obtained by the ABC show he travelled to Bali on September 4, 2004, just four weeks before Schapelle Corby was arrested at Denpasar airport. "He used to hang around with a bikie group on the Gold Coast. "Michael used to be in and out of trouble with dope and, you know, over the years I can remember some hell of a big blues with his parents," he said." . " "I can remember him and my Auntie Pearl, his mother, having arguments and fights over, different periods of time when I was staying at their house in Ekeby

[Pope arrives in Australia and pledges to apologise to sexual abuse victims](#) . XHTML 1.0 Transitional//EN" "http://www.org/TR/xhtml1/DTD/xhtml1-transitional.w3. Content from the Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph newspapers and video from Telegraph TV.dtd"> **Pope arrives in Australia and pledges to apologise to sexual abuse victims - Telegraph** [Telegraph accessibility links](#) [Skip to article](#) [Skip to Telegraph main navigation](#) [Sign in or register -->](#) **Friday 25 July** | [Australia](#) feed | All feeds [Advertisement](#) [Website of the Telegraph Media Group with breaking news, sport, business, latest UK and world news.](#) - **By Bonnie Malkin in Sydney** **Last Updated: 10:54PM BST 19 Jul** [Previous](#) [of Images](#) [Next](#) **Pope Benedict XV is greeted by the Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd on arrival in [Sydney](#)** [Cardinal](#) George Pell and other leading members of the Catholic Church hierarchy welcome the pontiff **The pope arrived in [Sydney](#)** today to a distinct lack of pomp and ceremony. [Enhanced by Google](#) [Home](#) [News](#) [Sport](#) [Business](#) [Comment](#) [Travel](#) [Lifestyle](#) [Culture](#) [Video](#) [A to Z](#) [Jobs](#) [Dating](#) [Crossword](#) [UK](#) [World](#) [Politics](#) [Celebrities](#) [Obituaries](#) [Weird](#) [Science](#) [Earth](#) [Topics](#) **You are here:** [Home](#) [News](#) [World News](#) **Australia and the Pacific** [Australia](#) **Pope arrives in Australia and pledges to apologise to sexual abuse victims** - **Pope Benedict XVI has arrived in Australia for World Youth Day after pledging to apologise to victims of sexual abuse by Catholic priests.** **He will spend three days at the Opus Dei-run centre recovering from his 20-hour flight from Rome.** **He spent just ten minutes greeting Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, Catholic Archbishop of Sydney Cardinal George Pell and other dignitaries, before being driven to a retreat in Sydney s northwest.** **Talking to journalists during the Alitalia flight, the pope said he wanted to apologise to victims of sexual abuse by Catholic priests just as I did in the United States .** **The Pontiff will be officially welcomed to Australia on Thursday with a motorcade on Sydney Harbour.** **We have to consider what was insufficient in our behaviour and how we can prevent, heal, reconcile , he said.** **He indicated he would also directly address the problem of abuse by Catholic clergy.** **The pope, 81, also repeated his belief that sexual abuse was incompatible with the behaviour required of the clergy, however he did not make clear if he will meet sex abuse victims during his stay in the great southern land of the Holy Spirit .** **This is the essential content of what we will say as we apologise.** **Professor Frank Brennan, of the Institute of Legal Studies at the Australian Catholic University, said an apology from the pope would be welcomed.** **His remarks come days after the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) revealed that Cardinal Pell had allegedly tried to protect a priest who has since been convicted of abusing minors.** **The pope also spoke about climate change.** **It s good that he is going to repeat those sentiments in Australia as events over recent weeks have highlighted problems in our country which the Catholic Church is still working**

through, he told the Sun-Herald newspaper. We have our responsibilities towards creation, he said. The pope is in Australia for World Youth Day, a celebration of the Catholic faith aimed at young people that is expected to draw more than 100,000 foreign pilgrims to the city and attract crowds of 500,000 to events. He refused to take sides in the debate about how best to tackle global warming, but reminded Catholics of their role in the protection of the planet. The trip is the most ambitious in terms of both distance and duration that the 81-year pontiff has so far attempted

[Caution urged as Old hose ban eased](#) .South-east Queenslanders will be able to use their garden hoses today for the first time in two years. Recent rain has topped up the dams allowing water restrictions to be eased, residents are now able to use 170 litres per person per day, up from 140 litres. "Today for the first time in two years south-east Queenslanders will actually be able to use the hose but that is just for half an hour and just between 4 and 4:30pm," he said. Queensland Water Commission spokesperson Gerald Tooth [says](#) the easing of restrictions is a small reward after the recent rainfall pushed Brisbane's combined dam levels over 40 per cent. "You can use the extra half hour of hosing for watering the garden, you can't use it on the lawn, you can wash the outside of your [house](#) but you can't hose pathways, you can hose in the allotted half hour to wash the car but you can't use it on the driveway. "On Saturday that's for odd-numbered houses and on Sunday even-numbered houses." . "Remember every minute with the hose can use 20 litres so you can blow that allocation of extra water very quickly if you're not careful

- [The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini Read by the Author UNABRIDGED](#) See also [A Thousand Splendid Sons - Khaled Hosseini Audio Book The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini - Audio Book -CD Brand New \(still shrink wrapped\): Unabridged 11CDs 12 Hours Taking us from Afghanistan in the final days of the monarchy to the present The Kite Runner is the unforgettable and beautifully told story of the friendship between two boys growing up in Kabul. Raised in the same household and sharing the same wet nurse Amir and Hassan grow up in different worlds: Amir is the son of a prominent and wealthy man while Hassan the son of Amir's father's servant is a Hazara -- a shunned ethnic minority. Their intertwined lives and their fates reflect the eventual tragedy of the world around them. When Amir and his father flee the country for a new life in California Amir thinks that he has escaped](#)

[Solar rebate applications on the rise, Govt says](#) .Government figures show there has been a surge in applications for the solar panel rebate. Earlier this year, the Federal Government bought in a means tested rebate making it available to families earning less than \$100,000 a year. But Environment Minister Peter Garrett says applications for the rebate have [increased](#) by 150 per week since the test was bought in. The solar industry claims the means test has crippled business. "To put this into perspective the current weekly average is higher than any week prior to the Budget, throughout the whole [program's](#) history. "We are seeing on average over 500 applications lodged each week since the Budget, with 700 in one week alone," he said. "At the end of the day, we want to make sure we get as many solar panels on the roofs of families who can't afford them, that was the whole purpose of the means test, it was clearly the right policy decision. "What it is telling us is there is a [significant](#) level of demand for solar rebates. Opposition Environment spokesperson Greg Hunt says the Government is ignoring evidence of growing dissatisfaction with the rebate program." But the federal Opposition disputes the figures. "In the Senate inquiry real businesses are reporting real drops and real mums and dads are saying we are actually going to cancel our orders, we are going to delay them and simply not take up orders," Mr Hunt said.

[FMG seeking to move into New Zealand](#) .The Fortescue Metals Group, headed by Andrew Forrest, is making its first foray into international mining by applying to test for minerals in a vast area in New Zealand. Fortescue Metals Group (FMG) has made several applications to test for iron ore sands on the west coast of the South Island in an area covering 4,000 kilometres. Bluescope Steel is already dredging iron ore sands along the North Island. The venture has upset a group of miners who claim their century old gold mining

business could be jeopardised. FMG's Graeme Rowley says if its applications for permits are approved it will consult with concerned groups. It is understood other miners including Rio Tinto and [China's](#) Sinosteel also have interests in the region. "Obviously through the consultation we will be involved in all of the issues that are raised by local community and obviously if certain things become prohibitive then obviously the tenders will not be granted. "At this stage it is so early in the process that we are not aware of some of the challenges that obviously through the consultation we will be involved in all of the issues that are raised by local community," he said. "[To] make sure it complies with the minerals program that covers the whole of [New](#) Zealand," he said. - Too large - Keith Brodie from New Zealand's mining lobby Minerals West says FMG's application is too large and the governing body needs to scrutinise it closely. "Also to make sure that they're not sacrificing one part of the minerals industry for another so it has to be carefully considered."

[Labor soul-searching as NT election count continues](#) .The vote count in the crucial Fannie Bay electorate in Darwin - in which Labor leads the Country Liberals by 57 votes - will resume this afternoon. The outcome of the election in the Northern Territory remains in the balance and there is some chance of a hung parliament. If the seat is won by the Country Liberals it would mean the major parties would hold 12 seats each and could only form government with the support of the Independent Member for Nelson, Gerry Wood. Labor has won 12 seats, the Country Liberal Party (CLP) has 11, one is independent and one seat, Fannie Bay, is undecided. Chief Minister Paul Henderson defined the parameters of his campaign as strong leadership, economic management and a mandate to secure the Inpex gas plant. Meanwhile questions are emerging about the Labor strategy that has left it reeling from a 9 per cent swing. Political analyst Professor David Carment says running on leadership was a clear error. But voters look to have unseated six Labor MLAs, three of them ministers. The Chief Minister had also claimed he needed to secure a mandate to chase a \$12 billion investment from the [Japanese](#) energy company Inpex. "He hadn't been Chief Minister very long and that in itself was a difficulty because his record in office was quite short," he [said](#). "A lot of people were probably quite upset by the timing of the election, they weren't convinced by the reason the Chief Minister gave. But Professor Carment [says](#) the real reason was political opportunism, and the electorate saw through it. There is also a view that a protest vote was allowed to grow unchecked, and the CLP was not forced to explain its spending sooner." Labor figures were shell-shocked yesterday and declined interviews, but some say the election's timing was a mistake, along with its relentless focus on the Darwin region. The Northern Territory Electoral Commission says the tally of absent votes will be finalised by Wednesday. A significant number of people voted outside their electorates and there are about 500 absent votes to count in each seat, including Fannie Bay. When all votes have been counted, there will be a distribution of preferences to determine the final results. Friday is the deadline for postal votes and the final count will be on Friday evening.

[Makinti Napanangka wins top Indigenous art prize](#) .An artist from the Kintore community west of Alice Springs has won the country's richest Indigenous art prize. The winners of this year's National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award were announced at the Museum and Art Gallery in Darwin last night. Makinti Napanangka from Kintore won the top \$40,000 prize for her painting on linen. Thousands of people converged on the gallery to celebrate the award's 25th anniversary. Last year's top award winner Dennis Nona from the Torres Strait Islands won the Works on Paper prize. The \$4,000 general painting award went to Doreen Reid Nakamarra from Western [Australia](#) for her painting about a rockhole. Hetti Perkins from the Art Gallery of [New](#) South Wales helped judge this year's collection. More than 300 art works were entered in this year's award and around 100 pieces which made the final cut are on display at the Museum and Art Gallery in Darwin until October. "It's very dynamic and charismatic and I have to say that she, from what I know about her, Makinti is very like that," she said. Ms Perkins says the winning painting has a lot in common with the artist. "She's quite elderly now but I

think her enthusiasm for art making remains undiluted."

[Turnbull attacks Rudd's Govt 'impotence'](#) .The Federal Opposition is mounting an attack on Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's economic credentials, as Parliament this week ends its two month winter break. Opposition treasury spokesperson Malcolm Turnbull has used a [speech](#) at the State Liberal Council in Victoria to ridicule what Mr Rudd has achieved since coming to power. "There wasn't a petrol station forecourt in the nation, or a shopping aisle, where he could not be found filled with sympathy. "Remember Kevin 07, dripping with empathy, the motorists friend, the shoppers advocate," he [said](#)." Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson has accused the Government of not doing enough to drive confidence in the Australian economy and says the release a major economic statement will shore-up business and consumer [confidence](#), which he says are at record lows. "The empathy of 07 is replaced by the impotence of 08. "The responsibility of the Government is to do everything it can to drive confidence in the business community," he said. Dr Nelson told Channel Nine the Government needs to lay out what plans it has to address the apparent economic downturn." Dr Nelson says business and consumer confidence is at its lowest point since the recession of the early 1990s, and the outlook for inflation and employment continues to be a concern. "Confidence to be able to invest, to employ people and importantly to lift consumer confidence at the same time that our economy is slowing very sharply, with increased inflation, and every day it seems increasing evidence of unemployment. He says a major economic statement would help create optimism and confidence.

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[Leahy says farewell as Army Chief](#) .Army Chief Lieutenant-General Peter Leahy has praised Australia's soldiers for their bravery and devotion, during his farewell in Canberra. The Royal Military Band welcomed Lieutenant-General Leahy to his last [official](#) duty as Army Chief. In his farewell speech he thanked [Australia's](#) soldiers for their loyalty and honour. He began his career at the Royal Military College, Duntroon and over the last 37 years has served in Hong Kong, and on exchange in the United States. "More will be required in the future as we face a volatile world full of challenges and complexity," he said. Over the last six years as Army Chief, he has led over 30 domestic and international operations. He says Australia's soldiers will face a volatile world in the future are worthy heirs to the ANZAC legend, but must be prepared for more challenging operations in the future. Lieutenant General Leahy retires today and hands over to Lieutenant

General Ken Gillespie, who is currently Deputy Chief of Army. "How can we deny soldiers at war the best equipment, the best training, the best leadership and the best preparation for operations?" . "Your selfless service in the name of our nation has meant that my work to raise, train and sustain the army has been easy," he said
[St George-Westpac merger won't lead to fee hike: ACCC](#) .The head of the competition regulator has rejected concerns that a merger between St George and Westpac would lead to higher fees and charges. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has announced it will not block the \$17. ACCC chairman Graeme Samuel has told1's Lateline Business it has not examined bank fees and charges as part of its review, because it is a separate issue.5 billion deal. "But whether we ought to be considering a sort of a [major investigation](#), I'd have to say that I think the issue of bank fees and charges has been subject to some very heavy scrutiny over a period of some time. "We of course conduct an annual analysis of bank charges and fees and the way that they operate," he said."
Mr Samuel [says](#) the ACCC's approval of the merger is not a green light for more big banks to snap up smaller players. So I doubt that it's the sort of thing that would merit a major investigation. "There may well be different circumstances, there may be different market shares, there may well be different product offerings by different banks that may lead to potential anti-competitive consequences that would fail the Section 50 test," he said. The ACCC says the takeover will not lead to a substantial decrease in competition in the banking sector and Mr Samuel says the ruling does not mean that every big bank's bid to buy a smaller one would be given the go ahead. "I don't think we should see this as a green light for anything, other than a guidance as to how we analyse banking mergers."

[Book industry debates cheaper imports .Book](#) retailers want restrictions on cheap imported books to be lifted, but publishers say this could devastate the industry. The Productivity Commission plans to [review](#) copyright laws that prevent [booksellers](#) from importing titles that are also published in Australia. Books here are too expensive and copyright laws requiring retailers to wait a month for international bestsellers are outdated. For Dymocks boss Don Grover, the issue is simple. Australians spend about \$1. "I think this whole debate needs to be focused back on the needs of the customers of Australia, who at the moment are paying too much for books, and they're not getting new release books from international markets on time," he said. Book-sellers say reform is critical if they are to compete in a global market and keep more money from internet sales in Australia.5 billion on books every year and about 15 per cent of those sales happen online. "With the dollar close toing parity it's significant, and by significant I suggest [savings of] more than 20 per cent," he said. - Savings versus culture - Malcolm Neil from The Booksellers Association says changing the rules to allow imports alongside locally published editions would mean big savings for consumers. Ms McCaskill says US wholesalers will be the big winners, dumping cheaper books on the market and damaging Australia's literary identity with foreign lingo. But Maree McCaskill from The Publishers Association says lifting the import restrictions would slash profit margins used to promote Australian authors "I think we will see what has happened in New Zealand and that is they, yes, buy cheaper books, but they bring them in and they make a much bigger profit margin for themselves and the consumer doesn't win," she said. "You're kissing goodbye the Australian idiom and the Australian culture because we will be reading, teaching, and writing US English. "'Footpaths' become 'sidewalks', 'Mum' becomes 'Mom'," she said. Based on a piece by Nicole Chettle for Lateline Business."
Debate over competition reform is set to heat up in the next few months before the Productivity Commission delivers its plan for action in October.

[Second Hendra case confirmed](#) .Queensland Health has confirmed a second worker at a south-east Queensland veterinary clinic has tested positive to the potentially deadly Hendra virus. The woman was apparently admitted to hospital last night for observation. The virus broke out last week where one horse died and another was put down. A man, who contracted Hendra virus from horses at the Redland Bay veterinary clinic, was readmitted to hospital on [Wednesday](#). "I guess no one really knows what to do, but

we're all very close," he said. Clinic owner Dr David Lovell says staff are devastated by the latest positive test." Dr Lovell [says](#) the woman started feeling ill at work. "It's just ironical - I felt in the last few weeks my wife and myself have just been so pleased because we've probably had the best team that we've ever had here - harmonious and everyone's very close and to have this happen is just dreadful. . "The person actually was at work the day before - I can't tell you the real details, I didn't speak to her yesterday - but she actually called my daughter last night and reported what was occurring," he [said](#)
[Files CD](#) Golden Buddha - Clive Cussler [with Craig Dirgo] Read by J Charles A Novel of the Oregon Files - abridged Brand New: Unabridged Still shrink wrapped 5 CDs 6 Hours Golden Buddha - Clive Cussler [with Craig Dirgo] In his first feature-length adventure it's up to Cabrillo and his crew of expert intelligence and Naval men to put Tibet back in the hands of the Dalai Lama by striking a deal with the Russians and the Chinese. His gambling chip is a golden Buddha containing records of vast oil reserves in the disputed land. But first he'll have to locate-and steal-the all-important artefact. And there are certain people who would do anything in their power to see him fail... . About the Author Clive Cussler Clive Cussler the Grand Master of the American action adventure novel grew up in Alhambra California. He later attended Pasadena City College for two years but then enlisted in the Air Forc

[Westpac to reimburse customers after IT error](#) .Westpac [says](#) it will reimburse any customers affected by the overnight IT glitch where millions of dollars of payroll and direct debit transactions were processed twice. The bank has confirmed that thousands of companies and government departments were caught up in the processing error. "But from our perspective the most important thing is that we've now been able to favourably reverse those duplicate transactions and we're working very closely with the other banks to minimise any impact on customers," she [said](#). Spokeswoman Jane Counsel says they apologise for the inconvenience.

[Immersion](#) New Page 10 Millions of people worldwide have discovered the value of Instant Immersion the most effective program available for learning to speak a foreign language quickly. Based on the highly effective Euro Method (an intuitive approach that surrounds you with native speakers and a new culture) Instant Immersion Hawaiian provides authentic dialogue and traditional settings that immerse you in the Hawaiian language and lifestyle. Written and developed by university professors and linguists each lesson in this 8-CD suite utilizes the same learning methods and retention techniques used in university-level programs. The lesson plan is designed to build a solid foundation of vocabulary terms and fundamentals all of which are reinforced throughout subsequent lessons. You'll move quickly from basic to intermediate speaking levels with easy-to-follow activities highlighting pronunciation voca

[NEW Harry CD Connelly Michael A](#) The Last Coyote - Michael Connelly read by Dick Hill in CD Format. Brand New (still shrink wrapped): 3 hours 3 CDs The Last Coyote - Michael Connelly Michael Connelly's fourth novel cuts to the very core of Harry Bosch's character as he is drawn to investigate a thirty-year-old unsolved crime: the murder of his mother. Harry's life is a mess. His house has been condemned because of earthquake damage. His girlfriend has left him. He's drinking too much. And he's even had to turn in his badge: he attacked his commanding officer and is suspended indefinitely pending a psychiatric evaluation. At first Bosch resists the LAPD shrink but finally he recognizes that something is troubling him a force that may have shaped his entire life. In 1961 when Harry was eleven his mother was brutally murdered. No one was ever even accused of the crime. Harry opens up the decades-old file on

[Real-life experiences inspire Gallipoli stage production](#) .The Sydney Theatre Company is recreating Australia's most sacred battle - Gallipoli - on stage. Everything in the all-singing, all-dancing production is taken from real-life experiences. "In that sense, it's not a dramatised script. "It's absolutely told through the voices of the [people](#) that were there," director Nigel Jamison [said](#). The bloody landing on the shore of Gallipoli is done with dramatic effect." It is theatre at its most physical. The futility of the battle haunts actor John Gaden, who plays British commander General Ian Hamilton. A wall on stage represents

the cliffs of the unconquered peninsula. Just as Australia needed extra troops for World War I, so too has the Sydney Theatre Company. "He didn't understand the damage a machine gun could do to men charging up hill, which was what was occurring a lot," Gaden said. And they have [learnt](#) how hard life was in the trenches. Third year students from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) are making up the numbers. But the musical is not just a history piece. "How absolutely awful the conditions were; the length of time they spent on Gallipoli meant they went there in winter," student actor Julia Billington noted. "The lack of appreciation about the way occupying forces are treated - in terms of the lack of preparation, of supplies and infrastructure," Jamison said. The director also draws parallels between Gallipoli and the war in Iraq. . Gallipoli opens in Sydney tonight

[Cash-strapped councils must double rates: report](#) .The [New](#) South Wales Government is under pressure to relieve the financial burden from cash-strapped councils, after a new report found 35 would have to [increase](#) their rates by 80 to 200 per cent to be financially sustainable. The report says more than half the state's councils will need to dramatically increase rates or slash their spending within five to 10 years to meet their spiralling infrastructure costs. Professor Allan, who chaired and directed the NSW Local Government Inquiry in 2006, says the State Government has given councils dozens of extra infrastructure responsibilities. The study was commissioned by a company headed by Professor Percy Allan, who has conducted several independent reviews for the Local Government Association and individual councils. "But one of the consequences of that is that councils now find themselves severely underfunded as far as particularly their capital works programs are concerned. "NSW has had rate pegging for over 30 years when no other state has had it, so rates have been deliberately held down by the State Government over a long period, which has been very popular," he said.2 per cent." Local Government Association president Genia McCaffery says council costs rose by 5 per cent last year, yet rates were only allowed to increase by 3. "Many councils are in serious financial problems and how does the state Planning Minister [Frank Sartor] respond?" she said. Ms McCaffery [says](#) rising infrastructure costs and 30 years of rate pegging are sending councils broke. "I just sit there shaking my head and I think, these guys are just totally ignorant and we keep telling them and we cannot seem to get through to them. "He introduces a whole lot of planning changes and has local government funding it. "All of this has caused council costs to go through the roof and that means that councils are looking to their ratepayers to pay more," he said." NSW Opposition local government spokesman Chris Hartcher agrees the State Government has largely caused the problem by handing over too many of its own responsibilities to councils. "It should discharge its own responsibilities and not simply transfer them to councils and to ratepayers. "The State Government needs to finally call a halt to its cost transfer and accept the fact that it has its responsibilities."

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