

The Big Picture

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"News to use & bemuse"

Editor: Mike Bolan



Across the news

Well, the Western paradigm continues full steam...

No conceivable priority requires Delhi's slum suburbs to be torn apart to provide a temporary playspace for high-living foreign athletes and their VIP retinues.

The truth is that international sport has become so bloated by national pride and celebrity as to lose all sense of proportion. The Geneva centre of housing rights and evictions reckons sport to be one of the biggest displacers of humanity, perhaps second only to war. In two decades, some 2 million people have had to make way for Olympic stadiums and "villages".
[TheAge](#)

While our representative governments try to kill of their own electorates...

Between 1973 and 2000 up to 400 – but by some estimates up to 800 – aircraft technicians were exposed to a highly noxious array of chemicals used to repair the faulty fuel tanks of the F-111s while stationed at Amberley air force base in Queensland. These personnel chose to serve their country. In return their employer poisoned them and now, tragically, their government refuses to adequately compensate them.
[SMH](#)

...if not indirectly, then directly...

"The government was lying about going to war and should forever stand condemned for that misconduct," Wilkie told Parliament on Thursday.

He damned the architects of the invasion: "The bloodstained pages of history are filled with such people - men and women with no understanding of the real risks and costs of aggression, or care for the consequences.

"There's no chance of them or any of their loved ones lying in the chill desert night air paralysed with fear, or being gutted alive by razor-sharp shrapnel, or losing a foot, or worse, from a mine or cluster bomblet, or having the flesh burned from their bones as they sit trapped in their blazing vehicle.
[Wilkie](#)

Propaganda and lies continue to be the stock in trade of our governments. Let's all focus on Afghani insurgents instead of dealing with the wider issues of importance to real people...

As Nazi leader Herman Goering said, "The people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. Tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peace-makers for lack of patriotism and for exposing the country to danger."
[ICH](#)

Not only are our governments not representatives, they are not competent either...

For most of this year, the decision-making process of the Australian government was a flying logjam. Ministers, mandarins and advisers chased the then prime minister, Kevin Rudd, and the four-person kitchen cabinet around the country hoping for decisions on the huge policy dilemmas piling up as the government was supposed to be clearing its desk for the election.
[Australian](#)

The result is bad policy or no policy at all...

"Health reform in the last term of government focused on hospitals, not the drivers that cause people to end up in hospitals," Mr Laverty said. "The then prime minister, Kevin Rudd, missed a major opportunity and left many health professionals disappointed with the health reforms. If this

Parliament does not act on preventive and social determinants of health, health reforms will not be achieved."
[SMH](#)

The break point is coming because Australians simply cannot afford to keep paying more and more for the same services...

When you pay your next electricity bill multiply it by four and that's what you will be paying in four or five years time unless you dramatically reduce your power usage. This is truly nation changing. If you add the ballooning costs of household water it means that the cost of running a dwelling will go through the roof.
[BusinessSpectator](#)

That Was The Week That Was

Governance + spin

Secret ASIO files found in drug bust [TheAge](#)

Taxpayers ripped off on govt contracts [Australian](#)

New MP s speak more truth than parties [SMH](#)

How the Rudd experiment hit the wall [SMH](#)

Brisbane Council debt pushes up rates [CourierMail](#)

Insider look at Vic Labor's spin team [TheAge](#)

Food/forestry

Bartlett hurries secret forestry talks [Mercury](#)

Climate/water/energy/resources/environment

Power price could quadruple in 4 or 5 years [BusinessSpectator](#)

Another \$3 bn for water rights in MDB [Australian](#)

Desal cup runneth over with our cash: Davidson [TheAge](#)

Health & education revolutions/communication/defence

Ambos on meal breaks while man dies on Final night [TheAge](#)

Poor education decisions led to rise in hoon behaviour [TheAge](#)

Too many lives lost currying US favours [SMH](#)

Social health gap widens [SMH](#)

Govt should keep Tcomm options open [Australian](#)

Poor service not our fault say telcos. [TheAge](#)

Govt poisons defence techs then refuses to compensate [SMH](#)

Economy/social/shelter/transport/free speech/World

Govt stuffs up Tassie Rental Affordability Scheme [Mercury](#)

No-one co-ordinates Melbourne transport [TheAge](#)

\$2.4 bn future rail project goes off track [SMH](#)

Centrelink targets small fry, ignores major fraud [TheAge](#)

Games lootfest a grotesque humiliation for India [TheAge](#)

Stamp duty major cost to home buyers [TheAge](#)

Massive Euro street protests shut cities [Australian](#)