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AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Fatal Carbon Monoxide Incident in South Australia

A 55-year-old man has died and three other men have been hospitalized following a suspected carbon monoxide poisoning incident at a home in Mount Gambier, in South Australia's south-east.

Emergency services were called to a property on Penola Road shortly before 9am on Thursday after concerns were raised about the presence of a potentially hazardous gas. The incident prompted a HAZMAT response, with firefighters and emergency personnel attending the scene.

Upon entering the home, firefighters discovered four occupants unconscious in a rear room of the residence. Despite the efforts of emergency responders, one of the men, aged 55, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The remaining three occupants, aged between their 50s and 70s, were transported to Mount Gambier Hospital for treatment. SA Health

confirmed that all three men were in a stable condition.

South Australia Police have launched an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident but said there is no indication of suspicious activity at this stage. A report will be prepared for the Coroner.

While the exact cause of the poisoning has not yet been confirmed, authorities suspect carbon monoxide exposure. The Metropolitan Fire Service has previously described carbon monoxide as a "silent killer" because it is invisible, odourless and tasteless. Symptoms of exposure can include headaches, nausea, dizziness, breathing difficulties, impaired judgement, collapse and, in severe cases, death.

Eight firefighters attended the scene, wearing breathing apparatus as a precaution while entering the property.

Legendary Greek Singer Mary Linda, Dies at 91

Mary Linda, one of Greece's most beloved and influential singers, has died at the age of 91, leaving behind a legacy that helped shape modern Greek popular music.

Born Maria Dimitropoulou in Pyrgos, Elias, she rose to prominence during a transformative period in Greek music, when traditional sounds merged with urban influences to create modern laïkó music. Her career became closely linked with legendary composer and bouzouki virtuoso Manolis Chiotis, forming one of the most celebrated partnerships in Greek music history.

Together, they introduced innovative sounds and arrangements that broadened the appeal of the bouzouki and influenced generations of musicians. Their perfor-



mances became symbols of Greece's post-war cultural revival, reflecting a society rebuilding its identity through music.

Over a career spanning more than seven decades, Mary Linda performed many of the most cherished songs in the Greek repertoire. Her distinctive voice and emotional interpretations made her an enduring icon of laïkó music and a treasured figure for Greeks both in Greece and across the diaspora.

UN Renews Diplomatic Drive to Reunite Cyprus

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will visit Cyprus from July 27 to 29 in a renewed effort to advance peace talks between the island's Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities.

The visit, the first by a UN secretary-general in 16 years, reflects growing international efforts to revive negotiations aimed at resolving one of Europe's longest-standing conflicts. During his stay, Guterres is expected to meet leaders from both communities to assess whether conditions exist for a return to formal negotiations.

Cyprus has remained divided since 1974, when Turkey invaded the island following a coup backed by Greece's military junta. Since then, the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus has governed the south, while the self-declared Turkish Republic

of Northern Cyprus controls the north and is recognized only by Turkey. A UN peace-keeping force has monitored the buffer zone separating the two sides for more than five decades.

For years, UN-led negotiations have focused on establishing a bizonal, bicomunal federation, a framework supported by the international community. However, significant disagreements continue to prevent a settlement. The Greek Cypriot side supports a federal solution based on existing UN resolutions, while the Turkish Cypriot leadership and Turkey increasingly advocate a two-state model, which is rejected by the Republic of Cyprus and not endorsed by the United Nations.

Outstanding issues such as governance, security guarantees, territorial adjustments, property rights, and political



United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

equality remain unresolved.

Although Guterres's visit is not expected to produce an immediate breakthrough, it represents a significant diplomatic effort to restore momentum after years of stalled discussions. Given Cyprus's strategic location in the Eastern

Mediterranean and its role as a European Union member state, progress on the Cyprus issue remains important for regional stability. The visit will test whether renewed international engagement can help bring both sides back to meaningful negotiations.

South Australian council elections deferred to April 2027

South Australia's local government elections have been delayed by five months, from November 2026 to April 2027, after parliament passed legislation following concerns from the Electoral Commission about its ability to conduct the poll. Future council elections will now be held in November 2031, 2035 and 2039, separating them from state election years in an effort to improve voter participation.

The legislation passed the upper house with support from the Greens and Family First MLC Sarah Game, despite opposition from the Liberal Party and One Nation. Voting for the next council elections will now close on April 7, 2027.

The delay was requested by Acting Electoral Commissioner Leah McLay,

who warned that problems experienced during the March 2026 state election could be repeated. That election is under independent review following issues including long queues, technical failures, staffing shortages and the discovery of uncounted ballots.

Local Government Minister Rhiannon Pearce said the Electoral Commission had raised serious concerns about its ability to recruit sufficient staff and manage another major election while dealing with the fallout from the state poll and the ongoing review.

Greens MLC Robert Simms said the extension was necessary to ensure elections were conducted smoothly and to avoid undermining public confidence in

the process.

The postponement has also raised concerns. Some councillors had already planned to leave office in November, while One Nation MLC Rebecca Hewett argued newly elected councillors would have little time to prepare before making important budget decisions.

Liberal MLC Ben Hood criticised the move, saying voters expected councillors to serve fixed four-year terms and questioning why the problems had emerged so late. He argued elections should not be delayed simply because of administrative difficulties.

Family First's Sarah Game said the decision was regrettable but necessary to protect election integrity. She warned that proceeding despite



known weaknesses could further erode public trust in democracy.

The Electoral Commission welcomed the legislation and said it would use the additional time to prepare for the elections and consider recommendations from the independent review led by former federal electoral commissioner Tom Rogers.

Cypriots Remember "Black July"

Cypriot communities in Australia have held events to condemn the military coup by the Greek junta and EOKA B' and the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in the summer of 1974.

Members of the Cypriot diaspora, Australian Federal, State and local Government representatives, Community leaders and friends of Cyprus attended the events.

On Sunday 19 July, the Justice for Cyprus Committees and Cyprus Community organisations across the nation, held wreath laying ceremonies and protest rallies to mark the 1974 tragic events. Following a memorial service at the St Sophia church, about 150 Adelaide

Community Life



Members of the Cyprus Community attended a public meeting at the clubrooms of the Cyprus Community on Wednesday 22 July where the Deputy Minister Nikolaos Ioannides briefed the community on current developments

Cypriots, gathered at the Cyprus Club memorial for a wreath laying ceremony. Speakers demanded an end to the Turkish military

occupation, and a just solution based on UNO resolutions for a federal, united Cyprus.

On Wednesday 22



Deputy Minister Nikolaos Ioannides, envoy of the Cyprus Government speaking at the Cyprus club

July, a public meeting was held at the Cyprus Community clubrooms with Deputy Minister Nikolaos Ioannides, envoy of the Cyprus Government, as guest speaker on current developments in Cyprus. Also in attendance was the High Commissioner of Cyprus in Canberra Antonis Siamoutis.

GREEK COMMUNITY TRIBUNE

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Presidents of SEKA and Cyprus Community Iacovos Digenis and Chris Ioannou and guests including Minister Tom Koutsantonis, and Mayor of West Torrens Michael Coxon commemorating the 52st anniversary of the Turkish military invasion in Cyprus, on Sunday 19 July at the Cyprus club.



Above: Scarlett Liberty (age 10) demanding Justice for Cyprus

Australia Warns Against Non-Essential Travel to the Middle East

Australian authorities are currently advising travellers to exercise extreme caution when considering travel to the Middle East, as tensions across the region continue to escalate. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), through its Smarttraveller service, says the security situation remains unpredictable, with recent military strikes and retaliatory attacks increasing the risk of further conflict.

Six countries — Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen — remain under Level 4: Do Not Travel advisories, the highest warning issued by the Australian Government. Australians are advised not to visit or transit through these countries under any circumstances.

Several other destinations, including the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and Israel, are currently listed as Level 3: Reconsider Your Need to Travel. DFAT advises Australians to avoid non-essential travel and, if transit through these countries is unavoidable, to keep stopovers as short as possible.

Adding to concerns, the European Union Aviation Safety



Agency (EASA) has advised airlines to avoid parts of Gulf airspace because of the heightened risk posed by military activity. Travellers are urged to check with airlines and travel providers for possible flight disruptions, delays or route changes.

Despite the warnings, the Australian Travel Industry Association says there has not yet been a noticeable decline in bookings by Australians travelling through the region. Industry leaders note that destinations such as Turkey continue to attract strong demand, while Saudi Arabia and Oman are not major destinations for most Australian travellers.

Travellers are encouraged to monitor official travel advice regularly, ensure they have appropriate travel insurance, and remain alert to rapidly changing conditions.

Up to \$122,000 could be wiped off the value of the typical Sydney House over the next year

Up to \$122,000 could be wiped off the value of the typical Sydney house over the next year, while Melbourne's median house price could drop below \$1 million, Domain forecasts.

The real estate platform has published housing price forecasts for the next financial year and has tipped substantial falls for the Sydney and Melbourne markets, with prices in Canberra also facing downward pressure.

The look-ahead comes after months of the property market losing momentum, with national dwelling values flatlining in May, and Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra already seeing falls, according to Cotality.

Domain's forecasts for the 2027 financial year noted "a more fragmented and constrained market", as higher interest rates affect both borrowing capacity and buyer demand.

The Reserve Bank hiked rates in February, March and May this year, and the full effects are still washing through

the economy.

Domain chief residential economist Nicola Powell said the housing market was no longer moving in lock-step around the country.

Across most markets, units are tipped to outperform houses, with Domain noting that first-home buyer schemes and affordability constraints will drive the price divergence, particularly in Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

It said the hit to borrowing capacity from interest rate rises had constrained purchasing power, meaning first-time buyers were increasingly entering the market via units.

Domain's forecasts have assumed the RBA's cash rate will peak at the current level of 4.35 per cent, and there could be a rate cut in the second quarter of 2027.

However, the prospect of further rate hikes has been acknowledged as the "principal downside risk" to their forecasts, which would push prices toward the lower end of the



ranges published in the report.

Housing Minister Clare O'Neil described the recent cooling market conditions as a "correction" after years of extraordinary growth.

"House prices have gone up just in that time by more than 50 per cent and we are seeing a correction on that," the minister said.

"We've got to remember there are different dynamics across our different capital cities and we still have an

undersupplied housing market," Domain's Dr Powell told The Business.

She said there are behavioural factors that will stem falling prices, as sellers will pull their home off the market if they don't think they will get what they believe it is worth.

Additionally, she said high construction costs would also contribute to capping price falls.

"It is still higher costs to replace a home than it is to buy an established home."

Migrants provide economic and social benefits to regional communities

In a sunny corner of an aged care facility in south-west NSW, registered nurse Vanessa Joy Hipolito is deep in conversation with resident Trisha Newton.

Moments like this that stay with her long after her shift at Allawah Lodge in Coolamon, a small town north of Wagga Wagga, is over.

"Our work can be really challenging, but it is also rewarding," Ms Hipolito said.

She is one of 14 migrant workers from the Philippines sponsored by the Coolamon Shire Council to work at the facility.

Council general manager Tony Donoghue said migrants had been filling a gap local workers could not.

"Prior to us going through that process, we had to restrict bed numbers," he said.

"Since we've brought this workforce over, it's a weight off our shoulders ... [it] means we're able to offer more opportunities for our elderly to age in place."

Over the last year, Australia's immigration intake and migration policies have become a topic of national discussion dominating this month's Farrer by-election and the federal budget.

The federal government has



Migrant workers play a vital role on the Australian citrus farms. The picture is from the Venus Citrus plant in Loxton

forecast net migration of 295,000 people this financial year — well down on the more than 530,000 migrants in 2022-23.

Meanwhile, Opposition Leader Angus Taylor has indicated that if the Liberal-National Coalition comes to power in 2028 it will cap immigration numbers based on the number of homes constructed each year.

"Never again will a government be able to bring in more people than our housing can support," Mr Taylor told parliament during his budget reply speech.

In one of Australia's largest citrus growing regions in South Australia's Riverland, second-generation farmer Phillip Kroehn runs a large-scale orange, mandarin and lemon operation.



A typical migrant seasonal accommodation unit in the Riverland of South Australia

He said without migrant workers, predominantly Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme seasonal workers from the Pacific Islands, he would not be able to run his farm or have his fruit picked in time.

There are currently more than 32,000 overseas workers employed under the PALM

scheme.

"The pickers I've got are here to do a job ... and they're not taking anyone's housing," he said.

"They live in accommodation for about eight or nine months a year ... and if it wasn't for them, I'm quite sure we'd still have fruit on the trees."