

A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

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The Price of Freedom is Eternal Vigilance

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Quality of News Reporting By Neville Archibald

When a person has a belief challenged, or when the beliefs they do have do not seem to fit in with the observed facts what happens?

Myself, I endeavour to examine the conflict that arises. I have my beliefs and I will admit, they are strongly held; but not so much so, that when confronted by an anomaly I shut down. I have had my ideas about the world challenged for many years as I have come to grips with the things I have discovered. The main stream News items that purport to tell the world what is going on, rarely report the whole truth and almost never contradict the prevailing political desires.

Many will see this last sentence as wrong – the media always criticises politicians!

Yes, the appearance of conflict is there, but the underlying policy of centralised control and globalisation of our economy is almost never examined. As a nation is this the way we wish to head?

The rise of One Nation could be seen as a direct result of this policy refusal; but the biggest news items arising from this, seem to be 'the far right', 'Racism', 'divisive', 'Xenophobic', 'bigotry' and 'populist opinion'. Have I missed some? The focus is on personalities and scandals, that sells advertising space, rather than the outright rejection of global control.

How are we to have our beliefs challenged if we are not allowed to discuss or even see these truths. If our media stays quiet or does not push for facts, lives instead on what I see as titillation, then our news sources must come from elsewhere. This is seen in the rise of social media and 'alternative reporting'. Both of which are reliant on the internet of things, the web!

More on this later.

If my beliefs are challenged, my first reaction is to examine the person doing it. If I am to give them due attention, they first must use words that are not outright slanders of me. Calling me names, is never a pre-cursor to great conversation, let alone considered debate. During my debating days the use of name calling was an instant recognition that there were few facts to follow it up – points were lost. If we are not to be 'divisive' (as they accuse One Nation of being) then this name calling has to stop! The media and it's shrills needs to use facts, not language, to 'sell' space. Allow us to see the conflicting direction of policy and the place it will take us to, and let us decide what we want! Not propagandise the view of a few who wish to assert further control for the power and money it provides them.

If an alternative to my belief is presented to me, I must look at the supporting facts. Sometimes I must do more research, re-visit my old research and find where this conflict comes from. Examine the pedigree sometimes, of those pushing this view, and considering bias, both in my original research and in the newly presented ones. In this way I have developed and can examine my belief system.

Apart from this scientific or facts based study, there is also the social benefit side of an argument. This is not the 'seen' or 'peer pressure' side, but the extension out to where such a policy or belief takes us! How it impacts the individual most of all! Is this not the aim of creating a better way to live?

To grow as both a Nation and individually, considered thought on contentious subjects needs to occur, both personally and publicly. The immediate reach for your six gun with it's bullets of conditioned response – usually some form of label – must stop. Considered debate and the impact on the individual must be our first reaction to a challenged belief.

The rise of data centres.

Several items caught my attention this week, both were in some way a limit on the individual. The news items then bringing this to light, examined community impact and potential for environmental alterations. Data centres require both power and cooling as the high speed processing of information crunches it's way through our rising need for connectivity.

In both Texas and in Sydney, questions are being raised about one of the biggest growth sectors in the world - data management.

'The Australian data analytics market, for example, is projected to grow at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 25.3% from 2025 to 2034.' Google.

As you can see, everything else is struggling, but data is currently king. Profits are projected to add \$600 billion to Australia's GDP by 2030 (A.I. included). This has given governments (the world over) the bone of incentive to allow development to proceed at a rapid rate. Often times without proper

consideration of the twin demands of power (electricity) and cooling requirements (water supply).

In Lane Cove, Sydney, this has given rise to serious questioning about where both of those needs are to come from. The initial proposal can be found here: <https://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/Home/Tabs/Hot-Topics-and-Major-Projects/Data-Centre-proposed-for-12-Mars-Road-Lane-Cove>

The questions about it can be found here:

<https://inthecove.com.au/2026/04/12/two-more-data-centres-planned-for-lane-cove-west-business-park/>

Among the key-points of the article are:

- Lane Cove West now has **five data centres** built, approved or in planning — two existing AirTrunk facilities, a new AirTrunk proposal, Goodman's Project Mars, and a new DC Alliance proposal.
- The new **AirTrunk proposal** (87–91 Mars Rd) is 140MW across five storeys — Lane Cove Council says it significantly breaches maximum height controls. Around 120 diesel backup generators are planned.
- The new **DC Alliance proposal** (16–20 Mars Rd) is progressing through the Investment Delivery Authority with no public documents currently available.

Along with these points, the question of total power consumption and the ability of supply looms large. The water usage also is considerable, impacting an already stretched Sydney supply chain. If you remember back 2007 when, Australian of the Year, Tim Flannery stated, "even the rain that falls isn't actually going to fill our dams and our river systems". Since then reassessed of course, but the nature of the 'crisis' is still being pursued with some vigour, imposing both restrictions and costs upon us. This is no mere household usage we are speaking of.

This concern is from a NSW government document, 'Inquiry into Data Centres' by the City of Ryde Council 26 March 2026.

'Council is deeply concerned that the rapid concentration of data centres in the City of Ryde, particularly within the Macquarie Park Innovation District, has far outpaced the delivery of essential infrastructure and the development of appropriate planning controls. Ryde already hosts five data centres, with an additional seven State Significant Development proposals in the Macquarie Park precinct. This brings the total to 12 existing and proposed facilities, creating an increasingly dense cluster of this land use within a strategically important area.'

Note the number being proposed, these are not the only ones being developed in Australia, this is to be repeated in many other areas too.

'The cumulative effect is direct competition for finite infrastructure capacity between large, continuous-load data centres and urgently needed housing development.

As a result, some approved housing projects have been delayed because Sydney Water has been unable to meet the required water supply capacity. It appears that much of the available capacity has already been allocated to the substantial water demands of data centres. A 1-megawatt facility can consume up to 25.5 million litres of water annually. Ten average-sized 100-megawatt data centres would require approximately 250 million litres of water each year, with typical flow rates of around 56 litres per second.'

With housing in crisis for all of Australia and costs of living also skyrocketing, I wonder how this pursuit can be justified at this time, let alone the crisis of water previously mentioned. To put it in human terms:

'Data centres are exceptionally resource-intensive, with a single large facility often consuming as much electricity as 50,000 to 100,000 homes. In terms of water, a 1-megawatt (MW) data centre can use around 26 million litres per year, which is enough for more than 150 average Australian homes, with larger, AI-focused facilities using much more.'

'Large/AI Data Centre: Large facilities can use up to 5 million gallons (approx. 19 million litres) per day, which is equivalent to the daily water usage of a small city of 30,000 to 50,000 people.'

There are 16 more pages after this last quote, detailing the social impact and making a conclusion. What is not looked at is the fast tracking without serious consideration of these problems. It is almost like the developers have the ear of government alone, and infrastructure is not a consideration? Are we to see the same repeated push for progress that puts highly saline water from desalination plants back into sensitive ocean areas to impact sea-grass growth or create other on-going issues off the coast? (we have recently seen large algal growths, fish kills and sea-grass/marine environment issues. We are told they are not necessarily related, yet several EPA studies say monitoring is not being conducted often enough – who are we to believe?)

Or perhaps it will be like the push for wind energy that sees mountain ridges levelled and denuded of trees for miles and great corridors of the same treatment, to transmit it back to populated areas (because that idea has never been responsible for a fire or erosion before)?

'Industry Fellow and sustainable finance professional Gordon Noble says Sydney's Victorian-era water infrastructure is not equipped to meet today's water service standards. And this seems to be true, as IPART's Sydney Water

pricing assessment for 2025-30 reveals that the water service provider only realised and reported the extent of its infrastructure months ago.'

<https://inthecove.com.au/2025/12/05/data-centre-cluster-boom-sydney-water-infrastructure-under-pressure-as-data-centre-approvals-surge/>

Is the cart being put before the horse? It seems that the development permissions have been fast tracked without any real consideration of impact. The planning for this was in the pipeline in 2021, and only now is ability of infrastructure to cope, started to be taken seriously.

(supporters of data centres suggest that water consumption figures are elevated, as the water can be reused or even that recycled water could be a possibility. The figures given are examples from the media or media relations departments – whom I don't trust to be fully accurate. Actual meeting of these water needs will be ironed out and may lower, as I see it. If the build is to use a constant flow to cool with no circulating system, just flow to waste, as some seem to suggest, then the design is not a serious one surely? I cannot believe that that, would be a part of any new build in this day and age. Evaporation losses could be huge or power for chilling the water may be needed. Any way you look at it there will be consumption from a limited supply. The fact that this argument is only now being brought out is enough to make you ask about competency in the go-ahead decision in the first place. All of this should have been examined for feasibility long before permission was given. Which is my point.)

In the Texas panhandle, opponents are making similar criticisms of developments. Massive water use from an already over utilised aquifer or diverted from rivers also stretches requirements needed for food production which the area is known for. The other major item there is the noise. A constant hum of air-conditioning and other process's reaches an industrial level, but 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! A low frequency hum that goes through everything. Some have measured it at 85 – 90 dB, but sometimes higher. Again these figures are something I would question, as it appears convenient that they are really close to the acceptable limit of 85dB which is the level at which industrial limits over an eight hour period apply. Residential restrictions; however, are around 40 – 45dB. Again, all things that should have already been considered.)

This roll-out of data centres is another across-the-world-phenomenon, where governments are similarly ignoring concerns of infrastructure coping and residents complaining, as they vie to be the first to create this 'new world' – and here is what I see as the most critical point, which is largely overlooked, **the rise of the surveillance state!**

Cameras, expense tracking, personal data control and social media manipulation, all fit into the designs of a 'new world order' promised by President

Bush (H.W. in 1990) and others in every western country. This much maligned conspiracy is taking on a real shape now, few are denying it, and more and more our national leaders are pursuing policy that fits with the complete control and monitoring of everything we do. For this to be effectively done, huge processing ability is needed! Is this why it is full speed ahead and damn the consequences? Are our so called leaders ramping up the speed because we are slowly waking up to them?

We are told it is us pushing for these advances, with our constant desire for faster speeds and more connectivity. The push, in many cases, is more from required upgrades and newer software, not to mention continually changing hardware. Mobile phones are rendered obsolete before they wear out, computers are similarly hampered by the sheer volume of memory now needed for every upgrade or patch. Planned obsolescence aside, many carriers and computer and software developers will not support older forms of their product. They tell us it is because we are making huge leaps and bounds in technology, and that we all want the latest. I believe this push has been created, not just to sell more, but to also put us into a frame of mind that sees these Data centres as imperative to our future. An aligning of public desire and government need to allow for unfettered control over us. The rise of Big Brother is the main reason for this fast tracked technology, and we are asleep to it. Our Media ignores this aspect just as much as it ignores our desire for a different view of Australia - compared to that promoted by the Uni-party. Control over all media (especially the largely diverse social media), will only be possible through AI and data control. We are already being told to get used to our social media posts being monitored, for terrorist or extremism reasons. The legislation being passed to do this is looking worse and worse. People are being intimidated for speaking their mind and accused of sowing division for holding views contrary to that of our government. Hate speech et al will only work if the data centres are there to monitor us. We ignore this at our own peril. Now is the time to write/call/speak to your representatives to stop this ability to watch every little thing we do. Express your desire not to live in a surveillance society, local, state and federal governments will all be a part of some part of this process -each needs to be reminded that this is not the Australia you want!

Ice to Eskimos!

In a move that seems strange, Australia has just started shipping Natural Gas to Canada! Yes, our sister Commonwealth country, who has more than enough gas of their own and who recently rejected the idea of selling it to European concerns in favour of selling it south, to the USA, is buying ours.

'Australian LNG (liquefied natural gas) is landing in eastern Canada

primarily due to a combination of global energy market dynamics and supply diversification.'

'This trend also reflects Canada's efforts to ensure energy security and manage price volatility by sourcing LNG from various global suppliers, including Australia.'

<https://energynow.ca/2026/02/australia-ships-lng-16000-miles-to-canada-as-asia-demand-slumps/>

A tanker of this product left our shores in February to help dear old Canada, whose Prime Minister laments the need for self sufficiency going forward.

"Canada has what the world wants. We are an energy superpower. We have the most educated population in the world," he said.

"Many countries are drawing the same conclusions. They must develop greater strategic autonomy: in energy, food, critical minerals, in finance and supply chains.

"A country that cannot feed itself, fuel itself or defend itself has few options. When the rules no longer protect you, you must protect yourself," Carney said.'

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/carney-davos-speech-9.7052725>

We go to the Canadian Governments own website to find:

'Canada is the world's fifth-largest producer and fourth-largest exporter of natural gas.'

<https://natural-resources.canada.ca/energy-sources/fossil-fuels/natural-gas>

Yet we need to ship ours 16,000 miles to sell it there! Talk about a circular economy.

Going in circles is in vogue in governmental circles it seems. Tankers circling the world, carrying crude oil from Australia, others carrying it to Australia. Now tankers of gas, travel 16000 miles to supply someone who sells their own gas elsewhere as well.

I am in mind of a picture, a small town with little work prospect! Seven coffee shops open, each has a staff of five. Each day they get together (six shops by five employees) and visit the seventh to have a coffee each. Later that day, another shop hosts the others, and sells another 30 coffees. Each shop takes it's turn and the employees slowly become so over-caffeinated that they do not see the absurdity of it. In this way does the money go round and the economy boom!

Get ready for a new order.

In Mark Carney's talk at Davos, we hear the words: *"The old order is not coming back. We should not mourn it. Nostalgia is not a strategy. But from the fracture, we can build something better, stronger and more just."*

Every leader in the western world has said something similar. Our Prime Minister said the same of Australia. How he was for a 'New Australia', the old

Australia is not coming back! His push for change echoes the changing face of all Christian Nations as they slowly lose their identity to some mish-mash of subjective ideals, based not in faith or love of your neighbour, but on a rule of law that is altered continually to stop us individually developing into our best versions. It rather continues to place restriction upon restriction until we all dance to the same controlled tune, that of virtual slaves to whatever keeps those wielding the power happy. You will own nothing, and WE will be happy, they continue to say!

Removal of a sunset clause.

The ASIO Amendment Bill 2026 (and related 2025/2026 amendments) proposes making extraordinary compulsory questioning powers permanent by removing existing sunset clauses, allowing ASIO to question individuals—including minors as young as 14—without suspicion of a crime.

Something so quietly brought forward is turning 'innocent until proven guilty' on it's head. Why are so few talking about it? The mainstream media is not up in arms at the thought of 48 hours without family or lawyers present, or them even knowing you are being compulsorily questioned. Possibly, you could face charges or penalties if you do not provide answers when questioned – even if there are no charges brought against you. The idea of these powers, was brought about by terrorist threat and the potential for extremism being unleashed in this country. It was to be monitored and renewed as necessary every three years. Over-sight and debate in parliament keeping a draconian response minimised.

Our prime minister made a comment on this legislation when it was first introduced back in 2001 after the September 11 attack. As a Labor frontbencher at the time he strongly opposed it, arguing it threatened Australian democracy and civil liberties. I believe he called them draconian. Here he is now, pushing for those very laws to become permanent.

The law council had this to say:

'In addition to raising repeated concerns with the processes for issuing these warrants, including the lack of judicial oversight, the Law Council's submission highlights ongoing issues with what we regard as undue restrictions on legal representation for subjects of compulsory questioning, including discretionary powers to remove lawyers and limitations on information that may be provided to representatives.'

<https://lawcouncil.au/media/news/australian-security-intelligence-organisation-amendment-bill-no-2-2025>

It goes further though, and while some in social media are reacting, the legislation is receiving little interest elsewhere. Where are our judges and watchdogs? How is it that it seems we are fast becoming a third world dictatorship or a soviet era communist bloc country where you can be detained

without charge or without family knowing. If this is true, then you would be 'just missing' for 48 hours if someone were to come looking.

George Christensen's article includes a republished article, these dot points are succinct but you should read it all:

(Nation First republishes the *ConfidentialDaily.com* article on the permanent expansion of ASIO's coercive powers that risks tipping Australia from a free society toward a 'managed democracy'.)

- *The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2025 makes temporary emergency powers permanent, shifting the balance toward greater state control.*
- *The removal of the sunset clause eliminates a key safeguard that once required Parliament to regularly justify these extraordinary powers.*
- *The Bill expands the scope of compulsory questioning to include the vague concept of 'promotion of communal violence,' raising fears that political or ideological dissent could be captured.*
- *Individuals can be compelled to answer questions without criminal suspicion and may face limits on legal representation, undermining due process.*
- *With bipartisan support and limited accountability, the legislation marks a watershed moment and signals a troubling drift toward a more centralised and intrusive government.'*

Alex Antic also makes some good points when he says:

'To be clear, ASIO's 'compulsory questioning' power allows them to compel individuals, including those not suspected of crimes, to appear for questioning and produce materials.'

and

'In a state where freedom is over-prioritised at the expense of security, the result is anarchy. In a state where security is over-prioritised at the expense of freedom, the result is totalitarianism and tyranny.'

There are several politicians and commentators who are bringing this to light, the need support. For those who are not mentioning it, or are supporting it just because it is party policy, they need to be reminded of who it is they represent – not the party – YOU. Know your local politicians and message them regularly, stop in for a chat at their local offices when you shop. Let them know this Australia you love is not the same vision as it seems our 'leaders' are pursuing! So it is not just me who can see the reality of a totalitarian government not too far away. With bills like this going through with little concern in wider Australia, the public will indeed find themselves disappearing off the streets for wrong-speak or

even an association with someone who has the interest of government!
All hail the supreme leader, let none dare question him! ***

From the Archives: On Target Vol. 35 No. 29. (30th Jul 1999)

<https://alor.org/Storage/OnTarget/Volume35/Vol35No29.htm>

Victoria's Social Revolution By Jeremy Lee

Victoria has to go to an election before the end of the year. Most of the betting is on a safe victory for the Kennett Government. If he succeeds - and if the people let him - Kennett has a privatisation programme in store that will turn his State on its head. There are more and more signs that the Transurban toll-road programme is running into trouble. If it succeeds it will be the biggest privately funded infrastructure project in the world - the most ambitious Australian project since the Snowy Mountains scheme.

Everyone driving on the network of freeways approaching the city will pay - every vehicle must carry a transponder known as an e-tag, which will trigger a recording in the overhead gantries spanning the freeways. They won't need to stop or slow down. Their accounts will be automatically deducted with the fee.

Transurban not only has to build and operate the system for 34 years, but make it viable. But the scheme is running into trouble. Opinion polls already show that 25 per cent of motorists are planning never to use it. There is an increasingly bad press, particularly about the continual postponement of the opening. Transurban has had to triple its budget for 'marketing' the scheme - from \$5 million to \$15 million.

Confidence has not been boosted by the news that the company looking after the computer side of the operation, Computer Science Corporation, is the same firm, which was responsible for developing the combat computer system on the Collins-class submarines, now a major embarrassment to both Coalition and Labor Governments.

Transurban's own literature is hardly likely to endear it to potential users, as it describes the procedure for defaulters: "Photographs of licence-plate details will identify those who use CityLink without a valid toll account or day pass. Transurban will pass on this information to a government enforcement agency."***

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