

## Stories that didn’t get enough coverage this week

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By Anja de Rozario

Welcome back, Etterati.

As I am typing this, my feet have lost all sensation from the bitter Melbourne cold, as the cost of heating my family’s ageing bungalow feels far too luxurious for just me. While I might be self-pityingly shivering, there are parts of Europe that are literally on fire.

Which brings us to some stories we think deserved far more attention this week: the link between Big Oil’s war profits and deadly UK heatwaves; WA’s new “Post and Boast” laws that are likely to disproportionately affect First Nations young people; an investigation into why an Australian university cancelled a speaking event with UN Special Rapporteur for Palestine Francesca Albanese, and an investigation into Facebook groups posing as news outlets that are all cheering for Pauline Hanson.

### How WA’s ‘Post and Boast’ bill could criminalise you for an Instagram post, National Indigenous Times

Those who still watch the 6pm news would likely have seen “Post and Boast” laws referred to a lot of late. It’s usually framed around teens [setting buildings on fire](#) and hooning around in stolen cars, filming their antics for social media.

The outrage sparked by this intense “crimfluencer” coverage is what prompted the Western Australian government to draft the Criminal Code Amendment (Post and Boast Offence) Bill 2026, expected to be considered by Parliament next week.

Under these new laws, WA will become the toughest place in the country when it comes to punishing the “glorification” of illegal and dangerous acts online. The proposal goes further than other states — and it isn’t limited to offences like hooning.

Ironically, as the legislation was prompted by [public outcry](#) over 9NEWS’ coverage of kids hooning in a regional town — the reporter [showing the reel](#) to WA’s top cop on camera.

These new laws will make it illegal to share *any* footage that is likely to offend, including protest videos, rallies, or clips of minor offences, such as trespassing or fishing in an illegal spot. It’s worth noting that “boasting” is not a prerequisite for punishment — the content only has to be likely to offend — and criminal liability may also extend to videos posted before the bill’s drafting.

Naturally, the fact that these proposed laws could see demonstrators jailed has been covered by wider media, including [SBS](#) and this piece by [Crikey](#) on how reporters could be punished for doing their job. Not to mention [critics](#) questioning whether these laws have any long-term benefit to community safety at all, some describing the governments passing them as “performative”.

*However, [this perspective](#), platformed by NIT, was the only one to highlight how the bill will disproportionately affect First Nations young people.*

The overwhelming majority of people charged under similar laws in NSW have been children. And 78 per cent of young people charged with a post-and-boast offence have been Aboriginal.

Under the new laws, courts can order the removal of “offending material”, with non-compliance punishable by up to 12 months’ imprisonment and a \$12,000 fine.

### Revealed: major oil firms make \$93bn profits amid war and climate crisis, The Guardian

You may have seen the [unsettling photographs](#) of half of England and all of Wales in drought, places known for sweeping green vistas turned brown and barren.

Perhaps you read the [headlines](#) where Trump said oil giants are “making too much money”, criticising Exxon and Chevron for profiting off his war on Iran.

They “better cut the retail price” and “give some of that back to the public”, he fist-waves to reporters (beneath the looming shadow of November midterm elections). Anyway.

This original analysis by The Guardian, amplified by our indie media peers at [Cheek Media](#), draws the line between the two: Eight of the world’s biggest oil companies raking in more than \$90 billion AUD in just three months, and the emissions-fuelled climate crisis causing [deadly heatwaves](#).

\$700,000 every minute. That’s how much the world’s eight biggest oil companies pocketed last quarter — double what they made during the same period last year. Global Witness’ Patrick Galey aptly called it “cashing in on human misery”.

In September, an analysis of the world’s biggest fossil fuel firms revealed that emissions from any one of these companies were enough to cause more than 50 heatwaves.

The windfall profits have fuelled calls for oil giants like Saudi Aramco — the quarter’s biggest earner — to foot the bill for environmental damage and fund a rapid shift to renewable energy.

### FOI reveals reason why SA uni cast out UN speaker event, InDaily

In March, Adelaide University cancelled a sold-out event just one week before a renowned United Nations speaker was due to appear.

The reasons why, InDaily reveals, were found in documents it obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

The event was set to feature high-profile UN special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, who the Trump administration has previously sanctioned over her criticism of Israeli war crimes in Gaza.

From February 4, around two dozen staff members from the law school and media department were involved in discussions that would lead to the university pulling out.

*The FOI documents reveal the back and forth of a so-called “political ‘hot potato’” — one email reads, “The event itself appears to be eminently sensible and feature extremely good people ... (but is) a bit of a risk”.*

In a statement to InDaily today, a spokesperson said the university “believes universities should be places where people can discuss, examine and debate difficult or controversial issues” and claims it was unable to host the event due to size.

Riiiight.

This revelation was also summarised in Crikey’s [The Snoop](#) column, but not picked up elsewhere.

### “A case of mistaken identity”: New report finds nonsense label is driving out-of-control habitat clearing in NSW, Nature Conservation Council

Last month, [The Guardian](#) reported that approximately 90 football fields’ worth of woody habitat was bulldozed in NSW every day in 2024.

Tacked on the end of that article was a call from the Nature Conservation Council (NCC) to scrap something called “Invasive Native Species”.

[Invasive Native Species](#) (INS) is a state government classification that allows landholders to clear native vegetation that has regrown in ways that are different to its original state, and accounts for 61 per cent of authorised clearing.

Recently, we received a new report from NCC that INS is often a case of “mistaken identity” and that the “nonsense” is being used inappropriately as a blanket term for native species occurring in their natural range.

“The clearing of native vegetation under ‘INS’ provisions is the single greatest contributor to habitat destruction in NSW, and so we’ve taken a closer look at the label,” said Conservation Officer, Candice Bartlett, who authored the report.

“The term ‘invasive’ makes these species sound harmful, like pests.”

Conversely, iconic Australian species, like coolabah trees, river red gums and mulga wattle are all classified as “invasive” under the code. This has led to the approval of more than three million hectares of bushland for clearing.

The NCC found 44 of the 45 species listed as INS had grown within their natural range.

“What’s worse is ‘INS’ is a political construct, unique to NSW, with no scientific basis,” said Bartlett. “If you search for it in a library or research database, it will return zero relevant hits.”

*The report also found at least 171 threatened plant and animal species have been recorded within INS habitats that could be cleared if existing approvals are acted on. Bartlett said the “first step” to getting land clearing under control was closing the INS loophole.*

Only [The ABC](#) covered this report, noting the state government backs the INS and NSW Farmers Association also don’t want any changes.

### Sham pro-Hanson “news” pages flood social media – as One Nation bans actual news, The Klaxon

An investigation by Anthony Klan has unveiled a network of sham “news” pages on social media which are being used to spread vast amounts of far-right pro-Pauline Hanson propaganda. The independent media founder notes this comes as Hanson bans actual media outlets from her events.

Pointing to Facebook groups with titles including “Breaking News: Australia”, “Australia News” and “Australia News Zone”, The Klaxon notes the pages are “flooding social media with the material”.

“The fake ‘news’ pages each have thousands of ‘members’, and carry no political disclosures.”

One post features an AI-generated image of Hanson in front of the Australian flag, along with the words “The fighter we needed for the Australia we love”; Another reads, “She’s the future. She’s got the softer approach”.

*The Facebook groups are pumping out copious amounts of content. There were more than 150 posts to “Breaking News: Australia” just yesterday, with 2,762 posts in the last month, according to The Klaxon.*

These pages are gaining followers rapidly; one currently has 7.4k members — up from 6.7k members a fortnight ago.

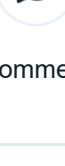
The Klaxon asked Hanson and One Nation whether the fake “news” pages were run or funded by the party. They did not respond.

These findings come a month after an investigation by [The Guardian](#) reported some of the largest One Nation supporter groups on Facebook, mostly created in recent months, appear to be run from overseas by foreign digital creators who monetise content.

### Abdul v AIPAC: Why this Senate primary wasn’t about Michigan

It’s an election that Jan Fran didn’t really think she’d care about that much: the US state of Michigan’s democratic Senate primary. Except that it was about a lot more than the state of Michigan. In this episode of Only Fran Jan unpacks why this election really was - as the media likes to dramatically call it - a “battle for the soul of the Democratic party” and what this battle has to do with the state of Israel.

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