# Nationals' preference deal with One Nation shakes up NSW election race



A significant political development in New South Wales may influence the outcome of an upcoming election, as the Nationals party has reportedly entered into a “handshake” agreement to prioritise One Nation in its preference voting. This move has the potential to turn the tide in the regional seat of Hunter, despite concerns surrounding the One Nation candidate’s views.

The candidate in question has drawn attention for promoting conspiracy theories related to Covid-19 and climate change. Specifically, claims have been made that the climate crisis is being manipulated as a means of controlling multiple facets of people’s lives. The preference deal between the Nationals and One Nation could thus have a decisive impact on the electoral results in this key electorate.

In other political news, the Coalition party is set to release its policy costings, which it claims will demonstrate a budget improvement of over $10 billion and a reduction in debt by $40 billion across the next four years compared to the current Labour government. However, Guardian analysis highlights that a re-elected Coalition government would need to reduce net migration significantly, including students and temporary skilled workers, to meet its targets for the next financial year.

Meanwhile, Clive Palmer’s party has been a source of controversy due to the large volume of unsolicited text messages sent to voters. The campaign’s authorised overseer, barrister H Fong, insists he was not personally responsible for sending them but authorised the messaging strategy.

Health news from Australia indicates that women with endometriosis face a greater risk of premature menopause, with a sevenfold increase in the likelihood of surgical menopause as a result of the condition.

Internationally, concerns about democratic backsliding in the United States have been voiced by former ambassadors. They warn that the US is on a path similar to other nations that transitioned from democracy to authoritarian regimes. This commentary coincides with former President Donald Trump’s recent critical remarks during a televised interview marking 100 days of his second term.

Economically, the US is experiencing a slowdown, partially attributed to tariffs introduced during Trump’s aggressive trade policies. The economic impact of these tariffs has raised discussions around a potential recession.

Local elections in the UK may see a strategic shift in voting patterns, with some Conservative voters reportedly considering Labour or Liberal Democrat candidates as a tactic to diminish the influence of Nigel Farage’s Reform UK party.

In Middle Eastern news, clashes near Damascus between Syria’s Islamist government and the Druze minority have resulted in at least 11 fatalities.

An unusual court case in the UK involves footage of the felling of the Sycamore Gap tree near Hadrian’s Wall, captured after an individual wielding a chainsaw brought the iconic tree down.

The Guardian also highlights sporting news, with tennis player Jannik Sinner discussing his near decision to quit the sport following a doping case, and Novak Djokovic withdrawing from the Italian Open due to poor form.

In Australian rugby, sweeping governance reforms are anticipated with the likely dissolution of the current governing body, known colloquially as the “57 old farts” by former player Will Carling.

Football fans are watching the Champions League semi-final first leg between Barcelona and Inter, taking place this morning.

Additional local concerns include increased security in Hobart schools following a rise in youth crime and polling indicating significant challenges for Peter Dutton's chances in the upcoming election.

These sweeping developments across political, social, and sporting spheres offer a detailed snapshot of the current climate in Australia, the United States, the United Kingdom, and beyond. The forthcoming elections and ongoing social issues remain at the forefront of public discourse. The Guardian is reporting these updates.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

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* <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/may/01/morning-mail-thursday-ntwnfb> - Please view link - unable to able to access data