



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES



PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY

Issues & Insights | May 2025

# Foreword

Steven Fox, Parliamentary Librarian



Confidential, Impartial, Timely

## Introduction

Welcome to Issues and insights, a new Parliamentary Library publication that independently and expertly examines our complex and fast-changing world. Its purpose is to ‘think big’ in analysing the key issues that will confront the 48th Parliament and beyond. A critical component of this is situating national challenges and impacts in a global context.

The following articles engage some of the most pressing issues and policy questions facing Australia today. Across the collection you will see common themes emerging, with an emphasis on security, sustainability and prioritisation. Also pervasive is the acknowledgement of a world in transition, seen through geopolitical uncertainty, regional instability and rapid technological change. And of course, parliaments themselves must continually address both old and new challenges in how they govern, who gets heard and how to foster social cohesion in an era of increased division.

Whether you are a policy expert or simply trying to stay ahead of the curve, we hope these pages spark ideas, challenge assumptions, and help clarify the key issues amidst the ever-increasing noise. Issues and Insights showcases the Library’s expertise and our ongoing role both in these pages and beyond is to help you, the parliamentarian. Our experts cover a range of policy issues and portfolio areas and can ably assist you with any questions you have.

Steven Fox

[Parliamentary Librarian](#)

## Contributors

The following Parliamentary Library staff are acknowledged for their contributions to Issues and Insights 2025:

Don Arthur	Matthew Keene	Greg O'Brien
Becky Bathgate	Michael Klapdor	Susan Pennings
Michele Brennan	Marcin Kocik	Sophie Power
Nigel Brew	Hunter Laidlaw	Amelia Puckering
Adam Broinowski	Vu Lam	Grey Robertson
Luke Buckmaster	Virginia Lindenmayer	Yasith Ruberu
Nathan Church	Susan Love	Laura Schatz
Pauline Downing	Eleanor Malbon	Jill Sheppard
Karen Elphick	Dinty Mather	Joanne Simon
Stephen Fallon	Peter McDonald	Michael Sloane
Edward Fellows	Chris McGann	Martin Smith
Nell Fraser	David McGovern	Chris Sonneveld
Emily Gibson	Stephen McMaugh	Harriet Spinks
Joshua Gibson	Sally McNicol	Matthew Thomas
Geoff Gilfillan	Ipshita Mondal	Liesl Tierney
Owen Griffiths	Philip Moszczynski	Penny Vandenbroek
Annika Hellsing	Antonino Nielfi	Kate Wagner

## Licence

© Commonwealth of Australia



Creative Commons

With the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and to the extent that copyright subsists in a third party, this publication, its logo and front page design are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Australia](#) licence.

In essence, you are free to copy and communicate this work in its current form for all non-commercial purposes, as long as you attribute the work to the author and abide by the other licence terms. The work cannot be adapted or modified in any way. Content from this publication should be attributed in the following way: Author(s), Title of publication, Series Name and No, Publisher, Date.

To the extent that copyright subsists in third party quotes it remains with the original owner and permission may be required to reuse the material.

Inquiries regarding the licence and any use of the publication are welcome to [webmanager@aph.gov.au](mailto:webmanager@aph.gov.au).

## Disclaimer

This paper was prepared under the Parliamentary Library's annual Summer Scholar program. The views expressed in this paper are those of the Summer Scholar author, do not reflect an official position of the Parliamentary Library and do not constitute professional legal opinion.

For copyright reasons some linked items are only available to members of Parliament. All links are correct at the time of publication and are not subsequently updated.

Any concerns or complaints should be directed to the Parliamentary Librarian at [webmanager@aph.gov.au](mailto:webmanager@aph.gov.au). Parliamentary Library staff are available to discuss the contents of publications with Senators and Members and their staff. To access this service, clients may contact the author or the Library's Central Entry Point for referral.


## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.


The Parliamentary Library of Australia was established in 1901 and serves as a trusted source of information, analysis and advice for the Australian Parliament. The Library is part of the Department of Parliamentary Services.

Our services are confidential, impartial, and offered on an equal basis to all parliamentarians, parliamentary committees, and to staff acting on their behalf.

Our published material is available to everyone at:

 [aph.gov.au/library](http://aph.gov.au/library)

 Australian Parliamentary Library

 @ParLibrary



**Confidential, Impartial, Timely**