



TODAY'S NEWS

Monday, 11th August 2025

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LINKS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **[The Australian Financial Review](#)** (page 1) reports the Department of Health has warned Health Minister Mark Butler of looming "funding cliffs" that are forecast to reduce its budget by 38 per cent in coming years, which would affect a hundred programs and require the consideration of cuts to service delivery and jobs.
- **[The Sydney Morning Herald](#)** (page 1) reports hospital staff in NSW are reporting a significant rise in physical assaults, a rise of 62 per cent in some areas, attributing the increase to long emergency department waits and a lack of public mental health services.
- **[The Courier Mail](#)** (page 1) reports whistleblowers have claimed that disabled people on the National Disability Insurance Scheme are being "traded like commodities" for thousands of dollars, with providers paying for referrals from "consultants" who profit from a black market targeting those with the largest NDIS plans.
- **[The Geelong Advertiser](#)** (page 1) reports that despite pleading with residents to take advantage of alternate care options, paramedics in Geelong are frequently being diverted to non-emergency cases which contribute to ambulance ramping and a worsening crisis in the state's busiest region for Code 1 emergencies.
- **[The Hobart Mercury](#)** (page 1) reports the National Allergy Council has launched a new national online training program to address significant gaps in food allergy training for childcare

workers across Australia, as there are currently no consistent national requirements for this type of training.

- **The Courier Mail** (page 1) reports as part of a "Fertility Unpacked" panel, actor Olympia Valance has advocated for more in-depth fertility education in schools, a call supported by medical specialists who note many young people are uneducated about the challenges of conceiving and are shocked when they have issues.
- **The Guardian** (online) reports community-based initiatives like the Outback Mind men's circles are providing a preventative approach to men's mental health care in regional and rural Australia, and helping to quell feelings of isolation.

MINISTER BUTLER

Federal budget faces 'funding cliffs'

Australian Financial Review, General News, 11/08/2025, Ronald Mizen, Page 1

The Albanese government faces billions of dollars in public sector funding cliffs, which bureaucrats warn threaten service delivery, government initiatives and thousands of jobs.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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Waste water reports dry up

Herald Sun, General News, 11/08/2025, Jon Kaila, Page 11

The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission is refusing to say why waste water drug monitoring reports have not been published since November last year. [...] Federal Health Minister Mark Butler was forced to deny any political interference.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

[Read Plain Text](#) [Read More](#)

Vapes still available to buy despite laws

Warrnambool Standard, General News, 11/08/2025, William Stanley, Page 6

Eighteen months after single-use, disposable vapes were outlawed, they can still be bought in south-west Victoria. [...] When the federal government banned the sale of single-use vapes, Health Minister Mark Butler hoped the reforms would reduce usage.

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NDIS providers evacuate market after pricing review

The Australian, Other, 10/08/2025, Sarah Ison

Sarah Ison NDIS providers are leaving the sector in droves following a controversial pricing review decision in June, while the not-for-profit sector warns the disability agency must move urgently on long-stalled financial reforms and registration of all providers or suffer a further exodus of services. As Health and Disability Minister Mark Butler prepares to host his own roundtable on Wednesday to inform Jim Chalmers' economic reform summit later in the month, Disability Intermediaries Australia has revealed nearly 40 support co-ordination businesses have left the market since June.

Also reported by: [The Australian \(Australia\)](#).

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I asked where Labor's promised bulk-billing GP clinics are. I'm still none the wiser

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2025, Dana Daniel

It was a key election commitment for the ACT, so where are the three new bulk-billing GP clinics promised by the Albanese government? [...] The health department's incoming brief to minister Mark Butler, released under Freedom of Information laws, contains a partially redacted section that says some GP clinic operators had "offered to establish new fully bulk-billing clinics that would operate in "bulk billing deserts" like the Canberra region.

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MINISTER MCALLISTER

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DEPARTMENT

Federal budget faces billions of dollars of ‘funding cliffs’

Australian Financial Review, Other, 10/08/2025, Ronald Mizen

The Albanese government faces billions of dollars in public sector funding cliffs, which bureaucrats warn threaten service delivery, key government initiatives and thousands of jobs.

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AGEING AND AGED CARE

Bupa to cut 150 head office jobs as cost pressures hit

Australian Financial Review, Companies and Markets, 11/08/2025, Michael Smith, Page 17

Bupa is slashing 150 head office jobs as part of a cost-cutting program intended to free up funds to expand into digital and mental health services, and in response to pressure from private hospitals to cut management expenses.

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How to stay sharp as you get older

Australian Financial Review, General News, 11/08/2025, Lisa Jarvis, Page 29

A new study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association makes a compelling case that a healthy lifestyle does an ageing brain good.

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Aged care system plagued by inconsistency

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/08/2025, Annika Howells

Australia's aged care system is struggling to meet the needs of our ageing population. [...] However, a new study, published in the Medical Journal of Australia, has found marked variation in care quality across Australia.

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DISABILITY AND CARERS

Trading the disabled

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2025, Julie Cross, Page 1

Disabled people in the NDIS are being traded like commodities for thousands of dollars, unaware they're being auctioned off to the highest bidder, whistleblowers claim. Those with the biggest NDIS plans are most vulnerable to this sick black market, according to Tanya-Lee Quinn, a Sydney-based chief executive of a disability company.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#), [Daily Telegraph \(Sydney\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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PRIMARY CARE

Petty calls clog ambos

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2025, Georgie Kibel, Page 1

Geelong paramedics are being tied up for hours responding to sunburn cases and people with arms stuck in jackets, contributing to the region's position as Victoria's busiest for emergency calls and a worsening ambulance ramping crisis. The Victorian Ambulance Union said ambulances were ramped at Geelong hospital for more than four hours on Saturday night, as they pleaded for residents to make use of the virtual emergency department where possible.

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Ambos feel strain pain

Geelong Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2025, Page 26

When you, or your loved one, is facing a life-threatening emergency, you want an ambulance to be able to respond quickly and effectively. [...] But they say a problematic triage system is leaving them frustrated, and stopping them from treating patients in real need as quickly as they can.

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Hack to see GP for \$20

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 11/08/2025, George Al-Akiki, Page 4

After years of witnessing expensive health check-ups, long patient drives and endless waiting, one doctor may have found the solution for all Australians at half the price. Dr Ganesh Naidoo has been a GP for more than 15 years, previously running bulk billing clinics in Cairns for over a decade, where his

experience revealed to him how vital affordable general practice is for patients in rural and lower income communities.

Also reported by: [Northern Territory News \(Darwin\)](#).

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POPULATION HEALTH

Teach fertility in our schools

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2025, Taylor Penny, Page 1

Actor Olympia Valance has called for teens to learn more about infertility in school, as specialists say patients are coming to them thinking falling pregnant is as easy as ditching contraceptives and are shocked they are having issues. Doctors and students have backed the calls made by Valance during a must-watch online panel discussion, called Fertility Unpacked, to do more to teach people about fertility issues and biological clocks in sex-education classes.

Also reported by: [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Hobart Mercury \(Hobart\)](#).

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Training could save young lives

Hobart Mercury, General News, 11/08/2025, Rebecca Borg, Page 1

Alarming gaps in childcare food allergy training are putting thousands of Australian children at risk, prompting the launch of a new national program to equip cooks and educators with vital skills that could save lives. Despite up to 86,000 children across the country in an early learning setting living with a food allergy, there are currently no national requirements for childcare staff to have food allergen training, according to the National Allergy Council.

Also reported by: [Courier Mail \(Brisbane\)](#), [Herald Sun \(Melbourne\)](#), [Adelaide Advertiser \(Adelaide\)](#).

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Bid to bring back fluoride

Cairns Post, General News, 11/08/2025, Samuel Davis, Page 2

A new oral health survey is likely to reveal the impact a lack of fluoridated drinking water is having on Far North kids with advocates still lobbying for the mineral to return to regional supplies. In February, Cook Shire Council voted to stop fluoridating Cooktown's water, home to around 3000 residents.

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Streets of despair: Shock extent of homeless deaths revealed as campaigner labels it a "national emergency"

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/08/2025, Luke Williams follow

Up to two homeless people are estimated to be dying in South Australia every week, in what one campaigner is calling a "national emergency". Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) data suggests between 55 and 100 people died in SA in 2021-22 – the latest available data revealed late last year – based on those known to have received specialist homelessness services help.

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'The more the merrier': the suburbs where Canberrans are having more kids

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2025, Lucy Arundell

Amanda Chan did not plan to have two babies so close together, but she always wanted a large family. [...] Figures from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare found Canberra had one of the lowest birth rates in the nation, with just 24 babies per 1000 women.

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Palliative Care Connect: Help at hand to share the burden

Palliative care can help improve the quality of life for South Australians with a life-limiting illness and earlier access to these support services may help them live better. Patients, their carers and families as well as their health and medical professionals are advised they can seek help and support earlier than they may think, so they do not struggle unnecessarily or feel as alone.

Also reported by: [Adelaide Now \(Online\)](#).

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ADHD medication shock: Children taking pills such as Ritalin have a lower quality of life than their peers, major study finds

Toowoomba Chronicle, Other, 10/08/2025, Melanie Burgess & Susie O'Brien

Children medicated for ADHD have a lower quality of life than those with the condition who are unmedicated, one of the world's most comprehensive studies has found. [...] Data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show the portion of children aged 12-17 prescribed ADHD-related medications tripled over the past decade, from 2 per cent of the age group to 6.6 per cent.

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CANCER, HEARING AND CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Break silence on kidneys

Herald Sun, General News, 11/08/2025, Sarah Booth, Page 10

Actor and comedian Stephen Curry has joined forces with Kidney Health Australia to launch an online program tackling the "silent killer". The Kidney Health 4 Life program offers free resources, including expert information, recipes and exercise guides, for the millions of Australians suffering, or at high risk, of kidney disease.

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Keeping people out of hospital key to fixing health system

West Australian, General News, 11/08/2025, Melanie Gates, Page 46

Nobody would deny that WA's health system is under pressure. The causes are complex and there are no quick fixes. [...] When a GP picks up the phone to our Diabetes Connect service and speaks directly with an endocrinologist, that can be one less referral to a hospital outpatient clinic.

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'It doesn't have to derail everything': How Anna Gilkison is helping teens with cancer finish school

Adelaide Now, Other, 10/08/2025, Rebecca Borg

A cancer diagnosis during the most crucial years of school "doesn't have to derail everything". [...] Ms Gilkison, who is employed by the Victorian Adolescent and Youth Adult Cancer Service, is the only person in the state to hold a role where her key responsibility is to help young cancer patients finish school or find an alternative pathway during and after their treatment.

Also reported by: [Daily Telegraph Australia \(Online\)](#).

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MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

Loneliness like puffing 15 smokes every day

West Australian, General News, 11/08/2025, Page 4

Australian doctors are recommending a social interaction prescription to combat a growing experience

of loneliness. A World Health Organisation report has found that one in six people experience loneliness, and estimates that between 2014-2019 nearly over 850,000 people died from loneliness-related causes.

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Teens turning to AI companions

Canberra Times, General News, 11/08/2025, Liz Spry & Craig Olsson, Page 18

Teenagers are increasingly turning to AI companions for friendship, support, and even romance. But these apps could be changing how young people connect to others, both online and off.

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Men's circles are helping rural Australians express their emotions – but experts say more support is needed

The Guardian, Other, 10/08/2025, Dellaram Vreeland

Peter Farlow's father never spoke to him about his emotions. [...] Held in regional and rural communities across Australia, the men's circles offer a community-based, preventive approach to mental health care, enabling men of all ages to connect while developing the necessary skills to express their emotions.

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We tracked Australian teens' mental health. The news isn't good, and problems are worse for girls

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/08/2025, Scarlett Smout & Katrina Champion

We know young people in Australia and worldwide are experiencing growing mental health challenges. The most recent national survey from the Australian Bureau of Statistics found that nearly two in five (38.8%) 16- to 24-year-olds have experienced symptoms of a mental disorder in the previous 12 months.

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IMMUNISATION

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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRATEGIES

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HEALTH ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH

Could we one day get vaccinated against the gastro bug norovirus? Here's where scientists are at

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/08/2025, Grant Hansman

Norovirus is the leading cause of acute gastroenteritis outbreaks worldwide. [...] Norovirus infections lead to about 220,000 deaths globally each year.

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NT Health turns to AI for middle-ear infection progress

Daily Telegraph Australia, Other, 10/08/2025, Harry Brill follow

With middle-ear infections sweeping across Aboriginal communities, NT Health has now turned to AI technology to get on top of the challenge. [...] "Aboriginal children have the highest rate of middle-ear infections in the world," Health Minister Steve Edgington said.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#), [The Mercury \(Online\)](#).

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners in general practice

Medical Journal of Australia, Other, 11/08/2025, Karl Briscoe, Karen Nicholls & Michael Wright

On 26 May 2025, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) invited the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) to launch their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Health Practitioners in Primary Health Care – Guide for General Practice (the Guide) at the RACGP Practice Owners Conference.

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PUBLIC HOSPITAL AND HEALTH REFORM

Nightmare of attacks on hospital workers

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/08/2025, Angus Thomson, Page 1

Long waits in emergency departments and a breakdown in public mental health services have led to a rise in physical assaults on the state's health workers, say NSW hospital staff who have shared horrifying accounts of being kicked, spat on, bitten and slashed with scissors. Attacks on hospital staff have risen most sharply in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District, which covers Wollongong Hospital and six other hospitals on the South Coast.

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80,000 hospital 'incidents'

Adelaide Advertiser, General News, 11/08/2025, Brad Crouch, Page 3

Public hospital "incidents" are on the rise, with about 80,000 reported over 12 months, ranging from catastrophic failures causing deaths to thousands of near-misses. [...] SA Health's latest Patient Safety Report for the 2023 financial year shows reports of incidents have doubled in the past decade, partly fuelled by staff being encouraged to report all incidents in an effort to avoid them recurring.

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Hospital figures 'fudged' as staff struggle

Courier Mail, General News, 11/08/2025, Hayden Johnson, Page 4

The state government has been accused of "fudging" hospital figures as exhausted nurses push patients into corridors and foyers. Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland said staff were suffering relentless overtime, emotional exhaustion, burnout and lack of resources across the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, which covers Hervey Bay, Bundaberg and Maryborough hospitals.

Also reported by: [The Courier Mail \(Online\)](#).

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Lights and sirens are on ...

West Australian, General News, 11/08/2025, Andrew Miller, Page 13

Many years ago, I received a call while working. They said my sister was in an accident and was on her way to hospital. [...] WA Premier Roger Cook blithely asserts it has become a normal part of bed

management to see hospitals on yellow alert unsafely overloaded, leaving other emergency departments to ramp even more ambulances.

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Rally paints dire picture on health front

Border Mail, General News, 11/08/2025, Blair Thomson, Page 5

A crowd of 200 citizens concerned about the revamp of Albury hospital have gathered at a rally at Corryong, with attendees told of major inadequacies in the present system and the redevelopment proposal. The meeting on Sunday continued a push to halt the hospital upgrade in favour of a new building on a standalone site.

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The ACT 'bears the brunt' of poor NSW health system: union

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2025, Lanie Tindale

The ACT "bears the brunt" of an underfunded south NSW health service, a union claims. Southern NSW hospitals surrounding Canberra are overwhelmed this winter, struggling with bed block and workforce shortages.

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CHIEF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY OFFICE

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HEALTH WORKFORCE

Inside the triple zero centre responding to ACT's health emergencies

Canberra Times, Other, 10/08/2025, Bageshri Savyasachi

What appears to be an uneventful afternoon in the capital has already been a very busy day for triple zero call-takers at the ACT Ambulance Service. Inside their communication centre, The Canberra Times observed a bright blue screen showing people had dialled 000 for an ambulance 160 times since midnight.

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TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND ACCESS

Trade war not only threat to PBS

Australian Financial Review, General News, 11/08/2025, Monique Ryan, Page 30

Innovation Australia's health system is rightly celebrated for its universal access and cost-effectiveness, but its outdated assessment processes are hindering patient access to cutting-edge therapies.

Also reported by: [Australian Financial Review \(Online\)](#).

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MEDICARE BENEFITS AND DIGITAL HEALTH

IVF data hack victims in legal fight

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/08/2025, Kayla Olaya & Kate Aubusson, Page 6

One of Australia's largest IVF providers has sought to suppress how medical and personal information for potentially thousands of its patients was published to the dark web by cybercriminals, as victims seek to launch a class action. [...] Stolen data included patients' full names, dates of birth, addresses, mobile numbers, treating doctors, medical diagnoses, Medicare numbers and private health fund details, Genea revealed to patients in emails.

Also reported by: [Age \(Melbourne\)](#).

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BENEFITS INTEGRITY

NSW Healthcare Complaints Commission receives surge in misconduct complaints

Adelaide Now, Other, 10/08/2025, Suzan Giuliani & Derrick Krusche

Allegations of misconduct against doctors, nurses and massage therapists have surged by 50 per cent, with patients accusing health practitioners of sexual assault, fraud and other serious offences. [...] He has been suspended by the country's peak health regulator Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) and is due to face a committal hearing later this month.

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INTERIM AUSTRALIAN CDC

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THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION

5-month wait for critical vaccine

Gold Coast Bulletin, General News, 11/08/2025, Rachel Riley & Ellen Ransley, Page 5

Adults and children not eligible for a free chickenpox vaccine are facing up to a five-month delay to receive the jab due to an increase in demand and a national medicine shortage. There are two different chickenpox vaccines experiencing shortages due to an unexpected spike in demand, according to the Therapeutic Goods Association.

Also reported by: [Townsville Bulletin \(Townsville\)](#).

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Channel 10, 10 News (Weekend), 10/08/2025, Chris Bath

Australian families are being told they'll have to wait months for a vital vaccine to be available again. Adults and children not eligible for the free chickenpox jab are facing delays due to a nationwide shortage of the paid vaccine. The wait time for the jab is now up to five months. Health authorities say the shortage is due to unexpected demand and delays in overseas shipments.

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OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

FOOD STANDARDS

Facebook feed: Hidden world of meals sold online

Sydney Morning Herald, General News, 11/08/2025, Kayla Olaya, Page 13

In a steamy kitchen in western Sydney, sisters Sanjana and Shivangi Munial prepare to sell the day's homemade orders on quite the unconventional food-selling platform: Facebook Marketplace. [...] Home-cook sellers are not overseen by the state's food regulator, which ensures restaurants and professional kitchens are clean, uphold strict food preparation standards and store food correctly.

Also reported by: [Sydney Morning Herald \(Online\)](#).

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AICIS

Hard choice for cattle farmer after Biloela property contaminated by PFAS

ABC Online, Other, 10/08/2025, Jasmine Hines

After spending more than 50 years dedicated to his cattle breed, Larry Acton was devastated to watch every Braford cow he owned go through the sale ring. [...] Bore water tested on Mr Acton's property in 2021 contained more than double the PFAS allowable in drinking water at that time.

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