

# THE Daily Telegraph

\$1 Inc. GST ST

Friday, April 21, 2006



**EXCLUSIVE**

Soccer's \$120m super TV deal P104



**DON'T GIVE UP ON US**

Nathan Hindmarsh's plea to Eels fans P104

**INSIDE MainGame** FOOTBALL FOR FANATICS > 16-PAGE LIFTOUT INSIDE

## Elle and the new man in her life



Hardly apart . . . Elle Macpherson and new beau David Evans

**EXCLUSIVE**

By FIONA CONNOLLY

SUPERMODEL Elle Macpherson is back on home soil and in the arms of a new man, Sydney restaurateur David Evans.

Macpherson and Evans have "hardly been apart" from each other for the past two weeks, with The Body even taking him to meet her family at her brother Ben's wedding in Cairns two weeks ago.

Since then, the couple has shared romantic dinners and been spotted in Evans' Porsche, as well as at the Royal Easter Show with Macpherson's sons Flynn, 8, and Aurelius Cy, 3.

The couple were first introduced in Sydney in 2000 but struck up a romance last December when the newly single Macpherson returned to Australia to spend Christmas with her family.

Full Story: Sydney Confidential P31

# IEMMA PUSHES PANIC BUTTON

## Policy backflips on train mess, fishermen poisoning

By SIMON BENSON State Political Reporter

THE Iemma Government was reeling yesterday after a series of damaging policy backflips and was caught desperately trying to spin its way out of trouble.

The day of political pain began with a back-down on the Government's refusal to test Sydney Harbour fishermen for cancer-causing dioxins after high levels were found in fish.

While the belated reversal was welcome — and potentially exposes the Government to compensation claims — it came only after continued public pressure. Then came an immediate U-turn on track work for Sydney's western lines,

which would have forced people on to buses and added two hours to commuter trips for up to three months.

The vital work now may be delayed until after the election for fear of a voter backlash.

The day continued to get worse when a damning report from safety investigators was later released to Parliament, raising grave concerns over the safety and training procedures on Sydney's ferries.

Transport Minister John Watkins was forced to concede that the report was "damning".

The Daily Telegraph can further reveal that as the background to these mounting problems, the

Continued Page 2

98 75 50 25 15 8 7 6 5 1  
CMYK2 CMYK  
FR OOF OK CORRECTION SIGNATURE ED

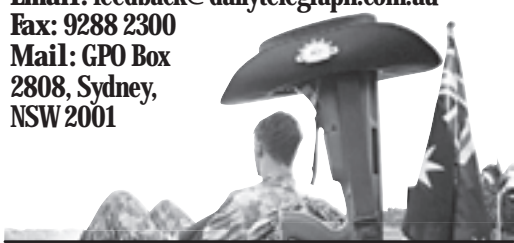
PUB: DTM 21-APR-2006  
ED: ST  
DTM 21-APR-2006  
ST

**HARDSHIP AT THE PUMP** PETROL PRICE RISES TO LEAVE FAMILIES \$2000 WORSE OFF P7

# Inside your Daily Telegraph

## Anzac Day Reunions

Are you planning an Anzac Day reunion? Send us your details and assembly point information.  
 Email: [feedback@dailytelegraph.com.au](mailto:feedback@dailytelegraph.com.au)  
 Fax: 9288 2300  
 Mail: GPO Box 2808, Sydney, NSW 2001



CARSguide > liftout Main Game > Page 35

## Sport

- Tiger Woods: I want to play in Australia > Page 95
- Michael Milton's amazing ski speed record > Page 97

## Sydney Confidential



- What's Naomi doing shopping for rings?
- Kylie Minogue broke my heart, comedian reveals

> Page 30-31

## Index

Business	33	Lottery	80
Classifieds	83	Sport	92-104
Clubline	75	Su Doku	81
Comics	81	Sydney Live	71
Crosswords	77	TV	103
Editorial	26	Vote-line	29
Fuel watch	29	Weather	82
History	76	What's news	28
Horoscopes	81	World	22
In search	29	Editorial	9288 3000
Letters	28-29	Classified	9288 2000
		<b>TABform</b>	Starts Page 43

## Forecast

(details Page 82)			
	Min-Max		Min-Max
Sydney	13/23	Newcastle	11/23
Liverpool	8/23	Gosford	8/23
Pennith	9/23	Wollongong	11/21
Richmond	6/23	Katoomba	6/15

## Wednesday Lotto

4, 27, 24, 21, 44, 2 Supps: 31, 45

## Win a Kokoda trip

The Daily Telegraph and Palace Films are giving you the chance to win a 10-day customised trek of the Kokoda Track and one of 500 double passes to see the film *Kokoda*.



See P19 for details

# Toxic Harbour lawsuit looms

## Iemma hits the panic button

From Page 1

RTA is planning to spend \$200,000 on two new spin doctors dedicated to suppressing community anger over roads and tollways.

Both contracts would be limited to 12 months, enough time to cover the March 2007 state election.

Premier Morris Iemma's day of woe began shortly after 6am when Mr Watkins made a desperate call to RailCorp CEO Vince Graham.

News that track maintenance could delay travel times for western Sydney commuters by up to two hours had caused outrage.

It had even prompted a call to Mr Watkins from the Government's own Attorney General and Member for the Blue Mountains Bob Debus expressing serious concern about the plans.

Mr Graham, who denied he was then told what to do by Mr Watkins, went on radio to announce that work would be delayed indefinitely.

Mr Iemma himself was then forced into a corner over the Sydney Harbour dioxin scandal.

Revelations had emerged that a small group of Sydney Harbour fishermen who had been tested for dioxins showed disturbingly high levels in their blood.

Less than 12 hours earlier, the Government was sticking to its policy that tests were not needed.

By 9.30am yesterday, however, Mr Iemma had bowed to demands that all 42 fishermen and their immediate families would be tested — potentially exposing the Government to compensation claims.

The third dilemma for the Government was delivered courtesy of a report by the NSW Office of Transport Safety Investigation into the Collaroy ferry crash on September 19 last year.

The report found there was inadequate emergency training of ferry staff and noted that some communications devices were missing from the Collaroy, or not working.

Meanwhile, the RTA is advertising for two "communication" staff — one responsible for Sydney Motorways and the other dedicated solely to Pacific Highway upgrades in northern NSW.

A new spin: Page 27

## BACKFLIP #1

By DAVID FISHER

THE Government is facing multi-million compensation claims if blood tests confirm the fears of commercial fisherman who have been exposed to dioxins in Sydney Harbour.

Premier Morris Iemma reversed the Government's position yesterday when he promised commercial fishermen and their families they would all get blood tests.

The fishermen had been campaigning for blood tests since January when the Government closed the Harbour to commercial operators after the discovery of dioxins in fin fish.

The backflip followed the release of test results commissioned by ABC's 7.30 Report on two fishermen and the wife and child of one of them.

The results showed one fisherman had levels of dioxins 10 times the Australian average and a fisherman's six-year-old son had levels above the adult average.

Mr Iemma said the Health Department would offer up to 42 commercial fishermen and



Anger on the Harbour . . . fishermen protest yesterday.

Picture: JOHN GRAINGER

### What happens now

- Process of setting up testing procedures underway
- Blood will be sent to Queensland or overseas for analysis because there are no facilities in NSW
- Independent expert panel to be set up to analyse test results
- 1800 information line to be set up for people who fish in Sydney Harbour

their families government-funded blood tests.

A 1800 information line will be set up for people who fish the Harbour.

"We want [tests] done as soon as possible so the department is starting the process," he said.

The announcement came soon after a boat protest by Harbour fishermen near the Sydney Opera House.

Suggestions of compensation and class action claims emerged yesterday over the fact the Govern-

ment has known for at least four years — and probably longer — that dioxins levels in Harbour marine life were above world standards.

David Taylor from Turner Freeman Lawyers — who represented many claimants in the Hardies asbestos case — said the Government faced tough questions.

"Were fishermen sufficiently warned about contamination in Sydney Harbour?" he asked.

"If they were not, then the Government could well have a problem."

## Commuter backlash keeps trains running

### BACKFLIP #2

RAIL chief Vince Graham pulled the plug on major trackwork yesterday after commuters threatened a mass revolt over serious disruption to services.

After a 6am call from Transport Minister John Watkins, Mr Graham went on radio to announce he was scrapping the trackworks which would have put thousands on to buses and increased their travel time by up to two hours a day.

RailCorp planned to close two tracks between Blacktown and Parramatta from May 8 to install concrete sleepers.

Mr Graham denied he was ordered to defer the work, saying it was his decision.

But the Iemma Government, with an election just 12 months away, had received calls from angry commuters and even one from Attorney-General and Blue Mountains MP Bob Debus.

## Collaroy skipper was unaware of procedure

### SHAMBLES

INSTEAD of following procedures, the master of an out-of-control Sydney ferry left the bridge to help lower the anchor in a bid to stop the vessel.

But the anchor failed to stop the Collaroy from slamming into a wharf at Circular Quay on September 19, 2005, in the vessel's second crash that year.

A report by the Office of Transport Safety Investigation (OTSI) tabled in Parliament yesterday found the accident might have been avoided if the master had transferred control to the engineer. No one was injured in the crash.

The master and the engineer stationed in the machinery control room were unfamiliar with procedures for

switching over control, the OTSI report found. A crew member tested positive to cannabis after the collision.

The chairman and safety manager of Sydney Ferries were sacked after it was revealed crew drug testing was not carried out in a timely fashion after the accident.

Eight Sydney Ferries accidents have occurred since 2004.

Transport Minister John Watkins yesterday admitted the latest report was damning, but said safety had improved since last year.



What are you doing this weekend?

# GRAND VITARA

5 DOOR 2.0L  
 FROM \$28,990<sup>#</sup>

3 DOOR 1.6VVT from \$23,990<sup>+</sup>

Takes you Off-road and back again  
 WITH COMFORT & SPACE

Takes you where you want to go.

Four mode 4x4 system, climate-controlled air conditioning, dual SRS airbags, CD player, ABS brakes, remote audio controls, electric windows & mirrors, 3 year/100,000km warranty and 3 year Roadside Assistance.

<sup>#</sup>Prices are manual suggested retail. Excludes dealer delivery and government statutory charges. Metallic paint \$250 extra.  
<sup>+</sup>Standard features for 3D model differ, see Dealer for details. MJW SZA2104DTM

[www.suzuki.com.au](http://www.suzuki.com.au)

SUZUKI | customercare<sup>®</sup>

SUZUKI  
 Way of Life!