

Chapter 24. Total War

In this chapter I take aim at the manhandling of the truth by the mainstream media, most of whose outlets are based in the Eastern States.

January 22

- Let's start with The Weekend Australian, which screamed this headline:

■ **"WA border backflip to hurt nation: CEOs**

Mark McGowan's backflip on borders has delivered a \$500m blow to the travel industry as - business leaders warn the prolonged closure of WA will damage the national economy."

Hmmm, let me see:

The national economy has suffered by the actions and inactions and the total incompetence of leaders in the Eastern States, in a calamitous act of intergenerational theft which has left future generations with a trillion dollars (plus or minus a few tens of \$billions) to repay the Covid welfare debts racked up, largely by the two most populated states.. When interest rates rise, future generations will be struggling to pay off just the interest, as they will also be struggling to support an ageing population.

This is what Mark McGowan said on December 13 announcing the borders would reopen on February 5th:

"Date locked in 'barring unforeseen emergency'

Mr McGowan said he was confident the state would reach 90 per cent double vaccination by February 5, based on current health advice.

He said he was very confident Omicron would not delay the reopening.

"This date is locked in barring some unforeseen emergency or catastrophe which we cannot predict," he said.

"It is a very safe bet that on February 5, this transition will occur."

I posted this on a local FB chat group

"I am writing a diary of Covid 19 for future generations to look back to see how it unfolded.

Chapter 24 of my Covid Diary is titled "Total War". In it, I take aim at the manhandling of the truth by the mainstream media, most of whose outlets are based in the Eastern States. Here is an example:

In December, when Mark McGowan announced the Feb 5 Opening, this is what he actually said:

"This date is locked in barring some unforeseen emergency or catastrophe which we cannot predict.

It is a very safe bet that on February 5, this transition will occur."

After seeing the emergency / catastrophe unravel in the Eastern States he took the only course of action he could. But it is being presented as a huge backflip! Mark his words (as it were).

Chapter 24 will slay channel 7's sensationalist claims on the News that the delay spelt "heartbreak for the MILLIONS OF FAMILIES waiting to finally be reunited".

<https://7news.com.au/.../premier-mark-mcgowan-pushes-back...>

In 2016, (from the 2016 census) there were just 645,000 families living in West Australia, in just over 1 million dwellings. Not all families have relatives elsewhere. Not everyone is heartbroken, many just accept the situation. We have a son in London. We can communicate with let's see, FB, messenger, zoom, skype, phone, email. In the world wars people had to make do with the occasional letter and were separated for far longer. Also, families CAN REUNITE, subject to some sensible rules.

My email to Channel 7 News ended with this:

You may wish to publish a correction on the News or be ridiculed forever, the choice is entirely yours."

And added a comment.

In a neighbouring suburban chat group, this post was removed after someone suggested it was political, which saddens me. I am reminded of Thomas Jefferson's quote: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance". I fight for freedom of the press. It has a vital role to play in keeping politicians accountable. However it comes with a responsibility to portray the truth. Some media use their power as a weapon in trying to form public opinion by propaganda and misinformation. If you don't fight misinformation, you lose your democratic freedoms. I used to have Foxtel, so I could watch Al Jazeera News and the BBC for a world view of events for research into my book. However, the torrent of misinformation Murdoch propaganda on Sky News caused me to cancel the service and I told them exactly why, and the person I was talking to me said he totally agreed with me. This post is about fact checking and democracy and trying to keep mainstream media accountable for their portrayal of the news. The only comment I have made which can be construed as "political" is the comment of the post by Dr Kerryn Phelps, the former president of the Australian Medical Association and Independent MP. I used it simply to provide balance against the current misinformation in the media. Here it is again: "WESTERN AUSTRALIA BORDER DECISION

Many opinions have been aired about the Western Australian Premier Mark McGowan's decision to keep the border closed for now.

When you see the carnage especially in NSW and Victoria caused by the now notorious "Let it Rip" policy, with hundreds of lives lost, supply chains disrupted, parents fearing for their children's health, medically vulnerable people terrified to leave their homes, businesses struggling, and healthcare workers on the brink it should be a no brainer. Western Australia's approach has kept covid rates so low that the people of WA have been able to go about their lives safely. Not the fake BS "keeping you safe" BS we have been fed at successive press conferences while we are anything BUT safe, even with vaccines and even if you ignore the fact that almost all children under 12 are not protected.

Current vaccines alone are not enough to protect lives, livelihoods and ways of life against #covid19.

It seems Mark McGowan is the only political leader in the country who understands this."

Freedom of speech. In response to a question on Facebook.

Regarding freedom of speech laws in Australia: "The Australian Constitution does not explicitly protect freedom of expression. ... It operates as a freedom from government restraint, rather than a

right conferred directly on individuals." But FB admins have the right to determine who can and can't speak! An extremely powerful position for which there is no pay and no training or requirements. Admins are censors, policemen, prosecutors, judge, jury and executioners. A year or two ago, I was barred from one local group because the admin simply didn't agree with my point of view. So a big thank you to the admins of this group for allowing this post. I would like to thank Chat group admins everywhere for the great job they do which takes up a lot of time, is voluntary, they just do it to serve the community. And in my view deserve more than just thanks. Polities get megapay and megaperks, councillors get paid. FB admins now play a huge role which I think should be recognised.

The Sunday Times of WA refers to Mark McGowan's backflip.

My email to the Sunday Times:

In the edition of January 22, your headline screamed:

"Mark McGowan's border backflip"

This is disgusting misrepresentation of the facts.

When announcing the decision to open on February 5th, you and most media outlets are all deliberately overlooking the following, and misleading the public.

In December, when Mark McGowan announced the Feb 5 Opening, this is what he actually said: "This date is locked in barring some unforeseen emergency or catastrophe which we cannot predict. It is a very safe bet that on February 5, this transition will occur."

The entire world was caught short by Omicron. Two doses were effective against previous strains, but Omicron rendered them virtually useless. What has happened in the rest of Australia can best be described as a catastrophic emergency, and Mr McGowan had to press the Emergency button. He had no choice. If you repeat an experiment expecting a different result, you are doomed to failure and show an incapacity to learn.

In my Covid diary, (<http://c19diary.co/> for your use, not for publication), chapter 24 is titled Chapter 24 : Total War: The fight against media misinformation begins

In it, I take on ridiculous misleading statements by media.

You have a choice, an apology or be ridiculed for eternity.

To be added to when time permits.

