

Helmut Kohl

On behalf of the Government and the people of Australia I convey my condolences on the death of former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

In Dr Kohl's 16 years as Chancellor of Germany he was central in shaping not only the Germany we see today, but modern Europe.

Chancellor Kohl, in overseeing reunification, laid the foundations for a strong and united Germany.

He was the driving force behind the adoption of a common European currency and cemented Germany's partnership with France.

Chancellor Kohl never wavered in his commitment to his democratic principles and ideals and will forever be remembered for his leading role in promoting global peace and prosperity.

Chancellor Kohl was also a good friend to Australia and was committed to the partnership between Australia and Germany which continues to go from strength to strength.

20 injured as Chinese flight hits turbulence in SW China

At least 20 people on a China Eastern Airlines flight were injured after it hit turbulence Sunday morning before arriving at Kunming in southwest China's Yunnan Province.

Flight MU744, departing from Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, was about to land in Kunming Changshui International Airport when it was hit by turbulence, the China Eastern Airlines said via its Weibo account.

The injured were taken to the First People's Hospital of Yunnan Province and Yan'an Hospital Affiliated to Kunming Medical University, after the flight landed around 9 a.m, an hour later than scheduled, local authorities said.

The injured, including four with severe injuries, suffered from bone fractures, scalp lacerations, soft tissue injuries and other light wounds, due to baggage falling or crushing on overhead bins, according to the hospitals.

None of the injured are in critical condition.

The local authority is still checking the overall number of injured and their

personal information.

[Weekly Road Report – West End Ward](#) [#dundeewestend](#)



DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL – WEEKLY ROAD REPORT

REPORT FOR WEST END WARD FOR SUNDAY 18 JUNE 2017

Guthrie Street (Horsewater Wynd to Blinshall Street) – closed on Sunday 18 June for BT manhole repair works.

REPORT FOR WEST END WARD – WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 19 JUNE 2017

Riverside Esplanade/Riverside Drive (Tay Road Bridge off ramp to 75m along Riverside Drive) – westbound nearside lane closure for 22 weeks to facilitate V&A construction works.

A85 Riverside Drive – prohibition of right turn from westbound lane of Riverside Drive into Riverside approach and prohibition of right turn from Riverside Approach into Riverside Drive for 25 weeks for works to the sea wall. Prohibitions will only be in place when required.

SSE Glenagnes Cable Renewal – Lochee Road lane restrictions and closures on Blinshall Street, Fleuchar Street and Scott Street for 5 weeks.

Perth Road (at River Crescent) – temporary traffic lights for up to 4 weeks for sewer remedial works.

Roseangle (Perth Road to Seabraes Court) – closed from Tuesday 20 June for 5 working days for SGN connection works.

Forthcoming Roadworks

Ancrum Road (Charleston Drive to Logie Street) – closed from Monday 3 July for 2 weeks for carriageway resurfacing works.

Surely the Chancellor does not want to mar Brexit?

I have been reading strange stories this week that the Chancellor is going on to the Marr show this morning to seek to change government policy on Brexit. I find this difficult to believe. The Chancellor is a senior member of the Cabinet and Brexit Committee, so he would have put his point of view strongly when the Brexit policy was decided. The government deliberated long and hard, and then produced a White Paper, several statements to Parliament, and the Article 50 letter and Act. These all made it clear the UK would be leaving the EU and its single market and Customs Union, but would be negotiating for a business friendly comprehensive free trade agreement with the rest of the EU. This approach received overwhelming support from MPs in the last Parliament who voted through the Article 50 Act on that basis. The Chancellor was in full support.

I also find it difficult to believe the stories because the policy the unnamed briefers say we need to change to is stupid. I would be surprised if the Chancellor wanted to sign up to such a policy. It is said we need to seek associate membership of the Customs Union, with an opt out of its strict rule that a member cannot negotiate free trade deals of its own for certain UK trade in services. How on earth could that work? The main gains from negotiating free trade agreements with other countries will come from those where the present tariff barriers are highest. These are the lower income countries with a big export industry in farm products and basic industry. In order to get access for our services we will of course have to offer zero tariffs and reduced barriers on things like tropical and Mediterranean agricultural products which currently are made dearer by EU impositions. If we can't negotiate on non service trade we have no leverage.

It is also foolish because it creates the impression with the rest of the EU that the UK is constantly changing her mind and is too busy negotiating with herself to be able to negotiate seriously with them. Such a change at this late stage would send the wrong signal, and would not leave the government with the strong position accepted by Parliament that we have at the moment. The General election saw 85% of the voters vote for parties that stated we will leave the EU and the single market and negotiate our own trade deals. That is incompatible with any kind of membership of the Customs Union which would prevent us feeling our trade with others.

That's why I think it unlikely the Chancellor will oppose government policy on the Marr show. Doubtless he will say he wants a business friendly Brexit. On that I agree with him. That much is agreed by Labour and the Conservatives. The way to achieve it is through maximum access to the EU market, and through much better trade deals with the rest of the world.

China warns of geological disasters in the south

Meteorological authorities on Saturday warned of possible geological disasters in southern China as heavy rain is expected in the region.

The National Meteorological Center (NMC) and the Ministry of Land and Resources warned of high risks of geological disasters including flash floods in parts of Fujian, Guangdong, Guizhou, Sichuan and Yunnan provinces from Saturday to Sunday evening.

The NMC revoked a blue alert for a rainstorm on Saturday afternoon, but the forecast of heavy rain in Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan, Taiwan and Yunnan will continue.

People affected by the rain should take precautions against possible mountain torrents, mud-rock flows and landslides, the NMC warned.

China has a four-tier color-coded warning system for severe weather, with red being the most serious, followed by orange, yellow and blue.

Over the past years, China has suffered some large-scale natural disasters, from extreme weather to geological events, causing huge losses of life and property.