

**FALSE
CLAIM**

The Australian government is a US-registered for-profit corporation

The False Claim

Australia is not a sovereign nation but a privately owned for-profit corporation registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, meaning that the U.S. controls Australia.

Why this Claim is False

The Australian government is not registered as a privately owned U.S. for-profit corporation. It is registered with the U.S. SEC as a foreign government entity, which allows it to issue bonds in the U.S., and does not indicate Australia is not a sovereign nation.

The Facts

The Australian government is not registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a privately owned corporation, contrary to claims by Australian anti-government social media users. The Australian government is registered as a foreign government in order to sell bonds and securities in the U.S., which does not affect Australia's sovereignty as an independent country.

The claim has been advanced on social media by members of Australia's "sovereign citizen movement," a group that rejects the government's authority, according to a February 2024 Agence France-Presse fact check, and is classified as extremist by Australian federal police. As evidence of this claim, these users cited the Australian government's registration records with the SEC, which they say show that Australia is not a sovereign nation but a privately held for-profit corporation that answers to the U.S. or other foreign entities.

However, the Australian government is registered with the SEC as foreign government entity, which allows the country to sell bonds and other securities in the U.S.

Institutional economics professor Sinclair Davidson of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology told Australian Associated Press in a November 2020 fact check, “In order to comply with American regulations to borrow money in America and to sell securities to American citizens, [Australia] has to comply with American securities law.”

Davidson added that Australia’s registration with the SEC states “very clearly within that document Australia is a sovereign nation.”

Political economy expert Ashani Amarasinghe told AFP that Australia’s registration with the SEC “does not create a corporation” and is “in no way a threat to Australia’s sovereignty.”

The Australian government has been registered with the SEC since 2008 as part of an effort to promote financial system stability during the 2007–2008 financial crisis, according to its SEC filings. Until 2016, the Australian government implemented a guarantee scheme that allows Australian financial institutions to issue government-backed bonds and other securities in global markets — including in the U.S. — to ensure liquidity and financial stability.

How the False Narrative Emerged

The false narrative appears to have emerged on March 13, 2013, on RightToKnow.org.au, which allows Australian citizens to make Freedom of Information requests. In a series of March and April 2013 requests, a user named Jim Gray asked the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for evidence that the supposed “corporation registered in the United States of America as the Commonwealth of Australia” is the same entity as the nation of Australia.

In a follow-up message on April 13, 2013, he said, “It is my WILL to know what has delayed a response to my request for information regarding the Commonwealth of Australia being a registered corporation in the United States of America.” (Gray did not receive a substantive response to his requests.)

Spread

The false narrative gained traction with a Jun. 14, 2020, YouTube video titled “Why Australia is Actually an American Company” by the channel Economics Explained, which has 2.7 million subscribers. The video said, “Unbeknownst to even the citizens of this corporation, The Commonwealth of Australia is a Limited Liability Company, registered in the United States, with shareholders, a board of directors, and everything else that makes up a company.” The video garnered 711,000 views and 22,000 likes as of March 14, 2025.

The claim has spread more recently on Reddit, TikTok, Facebook, X, and online video platform Rumble.

For example, on July 31, 2023, an Australian sovereign citizen movement member named Greg Woods posted a video on Facebook in which he said, “We are saying no to a voice to parliament and we are saying no to a treaty with a corporation, be it the Northern Territory government or the Australian government.” The post received 3,500 likes and 2,300 shares as of March 2025.

An Aug. 9, 2023, X post by Indian anti-vaccine user @monadian001 said: “Australia is a private for-profit corporation registered with U.S. SEC, Washington ‘DC[.]’ In fact all the so called Governments are.” The post received 5,040 views, 56 likes, and 78 reposts as of March 2025.

A Dec. 7, 2023, TikTok video by Australian sovereign citizen member @burnout82, who regularly shares “tax hacks” on his account, said in its caption, “AUSTRALIA IS a corporation, not a country.” The user spoke in the video: “There’s a lot of debate or a lot of arguments around whether the ATO [Australian Taxation Office] is actually a legal entity.” The video received 550 views and 35 likes as of March 14, 2025.

Background

The Australian sovereign citizen movement gained traction during COVID-19 among anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine groups, Australian outlet News.com.au reported in August 2024. Adherents frequently refuse to pay taxes and fines or to comply with legal orders, citing pseudo-legal arguments. Some have run for office, and elements of the ideology have influenced fringe politicians elected to Parliament.

Written by: [Charlene Lin](#)

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Examples of this False Claim ⓘ

- [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid026Jd7iReidBQVBbCNE1WQt dHNXHfYpTvXTlVwto4EwQWYBuzXkQocofjxGPJzrGtKl&id=100094168201420&__cft__\[0\]=AZXFLSuIFXfhKJCa4gi6xY9ma19cPnGIrOFf2JWWe0UrpnX4x_a53RfHaq3qz_9zDEs3AXCRYL36GYtdo6qe2yfgiwwvrf4oX26O-WUtYldyhX5nkB3JRdQEo-LDzIfHbyA6I3rsKSeTUJmyyNrlzBZUizzsbaDkx-eLjJYd1kYnhw&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid026Jd7iReidBQVBbCNE1WQt dHNXHfYpTvXTlVwto4EwQWYBuzXkQocofjxGPJzrGtKl&id=100094168201420&__cft__[0]=AZXFLSuIFXfhKJCa4gi6xY9ma19cPnGIrOFf2JWWe0UrpnX4x_a53RfHaq3qz_9zDEs3AXCRYL36GYtdo6qe2yfgiwwvrf4oX26O-WUtYldyhX5nkB3JRdQEo-LDzIfHbyA6I3rsKSeTUJmyyNrlzBZUizzsbaDkx-eLjJYd1kYnhw&__tn__=%2CO%2CP-R)

“Yet, very few people understand why our wishes are ignored once we elect these people to power over us. The simple answer is that the Political Parties have already sold us out to the United Nations while we were all asleep.

Since the Whitlam Labor Government Australia has been registered as a Corporation. We have lost ...

[expand](#)

02/03/2024

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- <https://www.tiktok.com/@burnout82/video/7309777414815616258>

“Tax - GST . AUSTRALIA IS a corporation , not a country .
”

12/07/2023

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

- <https://x.com/monadian001/status/1689451478220779520/>

“Australia is a private for-profit corporation registered with US SEC, Washington "DC"
In fact all the so called Governments are”

08/10/2023

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

- https://www.reddit.com/r/todayilearned/comments/h9dr1k/til_the_commonwealth_of_australia_is_registered/

“TIL The Commonwealth of Australia is registered as an American company.”

07/31/2023

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 [reddit.com \(en_US\)](https://www.reddit.com/en_US)

- <https://www.facebook.com/100009156009337/posts/3559896250945726/>

“We are saying no to a voice to parliament and we are saying no to a treaty with a corporation, be it the Northern Territory government or the Australian government”

07/31/2023

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

- <https://rumble.com/v2aydnk-no-treaty-no-voice.html>

“We are saying no to a voice to parliament and we are saying no to a treaty with a corporation, be it the Northern Territory government or the Australian government”

02/26/2023

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

 rumble.com (en_US)

- <https://www.instagram.com/p/CFsJPbMHTZH/>

“The Australian government is a de facto corporation registered in Washington D.C.”

11/28/2020

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

- <https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=10220861116895164&set=a.3916755194784>

“The Australian government "Commonwealth of Australia" is a U.S. registered corporation registered on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Washington D.C.”

11/16/2020

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

- <https://archive.vn/WdnH3>

“AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT IS REGISTERED AS A PRIVATELY OWNED AMERICAN COMPANY.”

10/07/2020

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xq8HOGHU8AQ>

“The Commonwealth of Australia is literally an incorporated American company. Unbeknownst to even the citizens of this corporation, The Commonwealth of Australia is a Limited Liability Company, registered in the United States, with shareholders, a board of directors, and everything else that makes up a company.”

06/14/2020

[VIEW ARCHIVED](#)

 [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) (en_US)

- https://cirnow.com.au/corporate-government-abn-numbers/?fbclid=IwY2xjawl8X4xleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHQbq6J_gKvZU00BPONaUw1DR5RITjMaYcJrCJZWZrki4vzoJWRbBdREAXQ_aem_fxWpGKD39cLKFIUTXxTUyg

“In the December 8, 2009 writ the applicants demanded that the executive government of Australia ‘cease all operations that are carried out under the Commonwealth of Australia ABN 122 104 616 and registered with the United States American Securities and Exchange Commission : No. 000 080 5157 ”

05/24/2018

VIEW ARCHIVED

Reliable Sources ⓘ

- <https://www.aap.com.au/factcheck/fantasy-to-claim-australia-is-a-corporation/>
- <https://www.aap.com.au/factcheck/no-the-australian-government-isnt-a-privately-owned-us-company/>
- <https://factcheck.afp.com/doc.afp.com.34HV8BM>
- https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-03/FOI_2117_T198654.pdf
- <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/26/301.7701-3>
- <https://www.chapman.com/insights-sfi-37>
- https://www.righttoknow.org.au/request/is_the_commonwealth_of_australia?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agRzeNZ6OGc>
- <https://www.finance.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-12/2023-2024-Consolidated-Financial-Statements.pdf>
- <https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2016/mar/5.html>

Risk of Harm ⓘ
Medium

First Appeared ⓘ
March 2013

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