

Monday, 20 April 2026

## **7NEWS Spotlight: Season return “The Green Dream” a winner with viewers**

Sunday night’s **7NEWS Spotlight** return, “The Green Dream”, has delivered a commanding win as the most-watched current affairs program of the night, pulling a national total TV audience of 723,000 and reaching 1.48 million viewers.

Last night’s episode marks **7NEWS Spotlight**’s biggest season opener since 2022, beating its closest rival by 26,000 viewers.

It surged 46% on the 2025 launch, with a massive 139% spike on [7plus](#).

The explosive investigation, exposing the dark reality behind Australia’s clean energy push, reinforces **7NEWS Spotlight** as the home of premium investigative journalism.

Reporter Liam Bartlett travelled to Africa to uncover Chinese-linked operators exploiting slave labour to secure control of the critical minerals powering the renewable boom.

Bartlett also went head-to-head with Energy Minister Chris Bowen, challenging the government’s “clean, green dream” and probing its links to controversial Chinese-backed infrastructure.

**7NEWS Spotlight** Executive Producer, Rahni Sadler, said: “Liam Bartlett’s exposé is confronting in the extreme. It clearly struck a nerve at a time when Australians are increasingly anxious about our energy future and it laid bare the dark side of the renewable boom.

“In Australia, serious environmental damage is already underway, with more to come. But the bigger shock is overseas: in trying to go green, we may be fuelling slave and child labour and helping drive devastating environmental harm.

“This is the first of many unmissable stories in the **7NEWS Spotlight** 2026 line up,” she said.

Earlier last night, **7NEWS** Sunday dominated the 6.00pm news timeslot, reaching 2.46 million people and scoring a national total TV audience of 1.53 million, 90,000 ahead of its closest rival.

**7NEWS** was also up 25% year-on-year in total TV, including a 54% surge on 7plus. Week-on-week it was up 5% in total TV and up 4% on 7plus.

**7NEWS Spotlight: “The Green Dream”, watch on 7plus [here](#)**

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**About the Seven Network**

The Seven Network is part of Southern Cross Media Group (ASX: SXL), one of Australia’s most prominent media companies, with a market-leading presence across broadcast television, audio, publishing and digital. The Seven Network alone reaches more than 17.5 million people a month.

Southern Cross Media Group owns some of Australia’s most renowned media businesses and platforms, including the Seven Network and its channels 7two, 7mate, 7flix and 7Bravo; [7plus](#); [7NEWS.com.au](#); [LiSTNR](#); the Hit and Triple M radio networks; [The Nightly](#); *The West Australian*; *The Sunday Times*; and [PerthNow](#).

Seven is home to Australia’s most loved news, sport and entertainment programming, including **7NEWS**, **7NEWS Spotlight**, **Sunrise**, **The Morning Show**, **The Voice**, **Home and Away**, **Australian Idol**, **My Kitchen Rules**, **Farmer Wants A Wife**, **The Chase Australia**, **Better Homes and Gardens**, **The 1% Club**, **The Front Bar** and the **TV WEEK Logie Awards**.

The Seven Network is also the broadcast partner of the AFL, Cricket Australia, Supercars, the **2026 Rugby League World Cup** and the **Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games**.