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Fortnightly links: Australian development honours, climate change and wilderness, UK aid quality, and more

By Terence Wood and Sachini Muller

Michela Wrong [details](#) the Rwandan government's attempts to quash dissent.

As Australia battles raging fires in Tasmania and major flooding in Queensland, Richard Flanagan [writes](#) for The Guardian on Australian inaction on climate change. On a related note, [these maps](#) show that just 23 per cent of the planet's land surface (excluding Antarctica) and 13 per cent of the ocean can now be classified as wilderness — nearly a ten per cent decline in the last 20 years.

Germans can now [choose](#) “diverse” as an option for gender on birth certificates and other legal records.

The WHO now predicts that there are enough Ebola vaccines to control the outbreak in the DRC, [reports](#) STAT.

As DFID’s share of the UK aid budget continues to fall, analysis by the ONE Campaign has [found](#) that aid money spent through other government departments is failing to meet good standards on poverty focus, effectiveness, and transparency. The same analysis found that DFID performs better in these areas.

Three Australians were appointed Members of the Order of Australia on Australia Day for their development work:

- John Langmore, former Canberra MP, UN official, long-time aid advocate, and currently development academic at Melbourne.
- Livingston Armytage, justice advisor to the UN and many other agencies, and an academic at Sydney University.
- Peter McCawley, former senior official with AusAID and ADB, and expert on Indonesia, now at ANU.

About the author/s

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