

## NEWS

## Stability of the world is at 'critical juncture': PM

Andrew Brown

ANTHONY Albanese has used his final speech at the G20 summit to urge countries to come together amid a "critical juncture" for the world.

Speaking on the second day of the gathering in New Delhi, the Prime Minister pleaded for economic co-operation from world leaders in order for countries to be more resilient.

Amid growing tensions in the Indo-Pacific region and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, he said it was more crucial than ever for countries to uphold rules-based order.

"Colleagues, we are at a critical juncture. People around the world are doing it tough. Growth is slow and inflation persistent, sovereign debt risks are elevated," he told the summit on Sunday.

"Now is the time for us to come together, to preserve the open and inclusive system that has served us well and the rules norms, and robust institutions, that underpin a prosperous global economy."

The address to the G20 comes after leaders agreed to a consensus declaration of summit outcomes, which included a repudiation of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Nations agreed on the Ukraine conflict that all states "must refrain from threats" and that "today's era must not be war".

There had been concern before the start of the summit the event would be the first time the G20 has not delivered a consensus statement, due to Russia being unwilling to condemn its own military action in Ukraine.



Andrew Kerec arrives in style back home in Canberra after his epic charity ride, cycling down the runway of the Canberra Airport. Picture by Gary Ramage

## Kerec's emotional homecoming

Megan Doherty

AFTER riding almost 7000km in a record-breaking charity ride, Canberra builder Andrew Kerec had two welcomes home yesterday - one spectacular and out-of-the-box; the other emotional and deeply moving.

The 54-year-old was invited by the Capital Airport Group to arrive back in Canberra in style, cycling straight down the airport runway, waving to family watching from the big glass windows of the terminal building.

Then - with an energy boost from "my 169th or 170th Turkish Delight" - Mr Kerec continued up the Federal Highway, down Horse Park Drive and straight to the door of his parents' home in

**It was a pretty good achievement, but it was a collective achievement.**

**ACT's record-breaking cyclist Andrew Kerec**

Forde, for a tearful reunion with his friends and more family.

Fellow riders, including supporters from the Hartley Harts Charity Cycling Team, were by his side for the final push.

During the epic trip, Mr Kerec set a record for cycling

from the western most point of Australia to the eastern most point, finishing the almost 5500km in 61 days, two hours, and 40 minutes, taking almost 23 days off the previous record.

He then headed south from Cape Byron to ride another almost 1400km back home to Canberra, raising more than \$170,000 for Hartley LifeCare and SpinalCure Australia.

The catalyst for it all is his father Lud Kerec, 75, who was made a quadriplegic in 2010 in a cycling accident. And the desire to see more research into spinal injuries, so at least some function can be returned to people such as his beloved dad.

Mr Kerec, who had recovered from COVID just before

embarking on the trip in June, was typically understated about his feats, instead thanking his support crew and those who donated time and money to the charities.

"It was a pretty good achievement, but it was a collective achievement," he said.

At his parents' home, he was greeted by his wife Jodie, parents Margaret and Lud, daughters Alanah and Renee and three-year-old granddaughter Sophia.

The west-to-east journey, from Steep Point in WA to Cape Byron in NSW, was memorable not only because of its challenges - including 1200 sand dunes across the Simpson Desert - but also because of the people he met and the generosity of donors

to the cause, from Canberra to Uluru.

"The outback spirit was truly alive," he said.

Mr Kerec, who completed another long-distance charity ride in 2017, this time covered a total of 6820km. In front of all his friends and family, the exhausted Mr Kerc promised wife Jodie yesterday: "I'm not doing another one."

Mr Kerec is hopeful to get to his \$200,000 goal, to be split equally between Hartley and SpinalCure, with the auction of the three bikes he rode on the trip, which will be reconditioned beforehand by Pushy's.

Donations to the charities can still be made at [thespinetinglingride.com.au](http://thespinetinglingride.com.au).

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