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7NEWS Spotlight's EV exclusive charges ahead **Last night's episode up 36% compared to the second episode last year**

The Seven Network's **7NEWS Spotlight** special investigation into the electric vehicle (EV) industry reached more than 1.63 million people on Sunday night and is continuing to dominate news headlines today.

The new **7NEWS Spotlight** episode secured a total TV national average audience of 850,000, charging ahead of *60 Minutes* by 25,000 viewers. The total average audience was up 36% compared to the second **7NEWS Spotlight** episode in 2024, while the total BVOD audience was up 65%.

Total reach was also up 11% on **7NEWS Spotlight's** exclusive interview with Gout Gout, which reached 1.46 million viewers.

In last night's world exclusive, **7NEWS Spotlight** Senior Reporter Liam Bartlett went undercover in Indonesia where few western journalists have gone before – inside the Chinese-owned Morowali Industrial Park and Wesa Bay Industrial Park.

The site churns out 70% of the world's nickel – the critical component for EV batteries – and appears to be operating with no regard for human life and the environment.

Bartlett spoke exclusively to workers facing deadly conditions and exposed how the mines are killing the locals, killing the workers and killing the environment, while also killing the Australian nickel industry.

Liam Bartlett said: "I'm not surprised that this story has resonated so strongly with Australians. Our audience has a very good nose when it comes to sniffing out social injustice and hypocrisy. When you consider how this issue is also tied into environmental destruction and government inaction, it makes perfect sense that it strikes a chord with so many people."

In response to last night's **7NEWS Spotlight** exclusive, **Sunrise** host Nat Barr took on [Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek](#) over Indonesia's unsafe, dirty nickel mines. The story was also picked up by other news outlets, including [news.com.au](#) and [Sky News Australia](#).

Last night's **7NEWS Spotlight** episode is available to watch on [7plus](#).

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About the Seven Network

The Seven Network is part of Seven West Media (ASX: SWM), one of Australia's most prominent media companies, with a market-leading presence in content production across broadcast television, publishing and digital. The Seven Network alone reaches about 17 million people a month.

The company owns some of Australia's most renowned media businesses, including the Seven Network and its affiliate channels 7two, 7mate, 7flix and 7Bravo; the digital platform [7plus](#); [7NEWS.com.au](#); *The West Australian*; *The Sunday Times*; [PerthNow](#); [The Nightly](#); and [Streamer](#). The Seven Network 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**, **SAS Australia**, **Farmer Wants A Wife**, **The Chase Australia**, **Better Homes and Gardens**, **RFDS**, **The 1% Club** and the **TV WEEK Logie Awards**. Seven Network is also the broadcast partner of the AFL, Cricket Australia and Supercars.

Source: VOZ 5.0, overnight data, 7NEWS Spotlight, includes spill. total people.