preoccupation /priːˌɒkjʊˈpeɪʆən/

a state of thinking about sth continuously; sth that you think about frequently or for a long time

***Emerson and Dutton discuss the week's events:***

**China has plenty of capacity to ramp up economic activity in this country, and they have told me, for example, through rolling out more of the very fast train track, and obviously further urbanisation, which means high demand for Australian minerals and energy resources.**

**EMMA ALBERICI: Peter Dutton, even the IMF is now calling into question this slavish preoccupation with the budget surplus. Why are you, on both sides, so determined to bring the budget to surplus?**