

Taking GST for granted

It is about time that West Australians thought about the nation rather than the State.

The Productivity Commission's GST findings are a call to that.

While the Prime-Minister and Angus Taylor have made clarion calls hailing WA as carrying the nation, there are five other States who don't do so well. They have many more voters than WA.

I am sure that the Victorian and NSW leaders of the Labor and Liberal parties who are going to election in the next nine months will be pressuring their Federal counterparts to ensure they get a better deal.

The Federal Government will have to make a decision on the carve-up for implementation from July 1, 2027 nine months before a Federal election.

I fear that Roger Cook has taken the GST for granted and prefers to spend money on a new motor racetrack rather than on homeless people and improving hospitals.

It looks as though there will be more homeless people and less money spent on hospitals in the future.

Undoubtedly the revheads will be pleased, but not many others.

John Rome, Mt Lawley

Big words, but it's out of their hands

The statements from Premier Roger Cook and Treasurer Rita Saffioti about how they "won't stand by while east coast whingers continue to try to destroy our GST deal" (*News*, 14/8) are grandstanding to say the least.

If the Federal Government decides to implement changes to the GST allocations to the detriment of WA, what, in reality can they do about it? Get cross, stamp their feet or send a nasty email?

Anthony Albanese has stated many times — as if that means anything — that WA needs to get its "fair share".

We have all learnt since 2022 how he can twist his words, haven't we?

Get ready for a brand-new definition of "fair". I imagine it will include being "fair" to the other States, not WA.

Wayne Perry, Innaloo

Pet projects on the line

I can understand Rita Saffioti's concern over the threat to WA's GST share from the east.

Are they worried it would endanger her and Roger Cook's projects, those in hand and any future ones that could emerge?

Cook enjoys sitting on masses of our money, but is also very reluctant to spend any of it to ease some of our State's problems.

It is supposed to be available for that purpose, so I was led to believe.

It also seems that this squabble over the GST is becoming an annual event.

Richard Sims, Bull Creek

State Labor to blame

If the GST decision goes against WA, reckless Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti have only got themselves to blame.

Other State premiers would not have failed to notice the disquiet and disgust of the entire community as both those arrogant and egotistical politicians ignored cries to address inadequate and crumbling infrastructure.

Instead, they squandered our share of the national carve-up on their own personal projects — a dud east coast footy team, brutal cage fighting and other imported events of undisclosed cost, an unwanted racetrack



Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti.

and an unviable ferry service which is destined to be a financial millstone around WA taxpayers' necks for decades.

It's a good argument for other States to take some of our GST share which our leaders are wasting.

Daryl Binning, Bull Creek

To be fair, I'm scared

Anthony Albanese says he wants a "fair deal" for WA in the latest GST negotiations. That scares me.

Remember when Albo and Grim Jim broke their promise about not changing the CGT and negative gearing? It was all about being "fair" to first-homebuyers.

Don't be surprised to see a "change of position" on what happens with the GST.

I don't think we can trust this Labor Government about anything. Albo's "my word is my bond" means nothing, especially if he needs to shore up votes in Victoria.

And if there is a change of position, it won't be announced until after the Secret Harbour by-election. Watch this space.

Jan Beagley, Tuart Hill

On this, I'm with Roger

In politics, when having to pick sides, Labor wouldn't be my preferred first choice.

However, having said that, on the question of Western Australia's GST I'm firmly on their side to fight the whingers over east.

Given Anthony Albanese's credentials when it comes to honesty, promises and trust, Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti have cause to be worried.

Unfortunately, politician is frequently ranked as the least trustworthy profession — and as for "we've changed our

position" Albanese, he's about as trustworthy as a fox guarding the henhouse.

Con Sappelli, Greenwood

Where our cash will go?

In 2018, we happened to be in Hobart when we watched a main street cordoned off and a hole dug.

In to the hole was going to be lowered a steel cage containing an artist who would produce art for the next 72 hours.

The road was then resealed and cars drove over him for the 72 hours — after all it was a main thoroughfare.

Then the road was blocked again while the artist was retrieved and the steel cage was backfilled along with his, if any, artworks.

The road was then resealed and traffic resumed as though it had all never happened. I'm an art lover but really? Is this why they want our GST?

Dianne Ople, Dalyellup

Bring in an influencer

The final decision on WA's GST share will be made by the Prime Minister.

It's time that Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti dipped into that bag of racetracks-and-soccer money and hired a first-class lobbyist who could be very influential with Albo.

One candidate wins hands down — Kylie Minogue.

Dave Ford, South Perth

Quit job, no pay, surely?

Joann Wilkie quitting her role as Under Treasurer, but keeping her \$559,302 salary for five years (*News*, 14/8), which is clearly contrary to the fiduciary interests of the Western Australian public, is bordering on the absurd.

The original contract was for the Under Treasurer's position. If the employee no longer serves in that role, surely that contract must cease?

Labor continues to practice the maxim "there's rules for thee, but not for me".

Nic Nolan, Secret Harbour

Melon-term memory

I'd suggest the Australian electorate won't quickly forget the gaffe of Prime Minister Anthony Melonese.

Roy Stall, Mt Claremont