

Albo knows what's waiting in regions

Yesterday's editorial in The West Australian says it all about the disconnect The Prime Minister has with the WA farming country regions — apart from the Margaret River wineries.

He has been seen at the Cottesloe tennis courts, Ningaloo reef, at ships being loaded with iron ore, Clancy's bar, the Kalgoorlie Super Pit and the Qantas chairman's lounge. He visited Alcoa's aluminium refinery during his 38th visit to the State.

Not a mention of visiting the agricultural regions of WA where one of the biggest harvests in our history is taking place.

WA produces around half of the nation's broadacre cereal, canola and pulse crops and provides around 65 per cent of the nation's exports of these products.

This percentage increases when there is a drought in the Eastern States, which happens quite often.

The reason for the lack of appearance in the regional areas is because politically he has nothing to gain from doing so, as the voting power of the country areas has diminished.

The population has reduced and the electoral boundaries have been changed to favour the urban population.

The recent legislation to close the live sheep trade means he would get negative publicity and he is not strong enough to face the people who were impacted most by this legislation.

Ian Clifton, Dunsborough

Skewed priorities

Given the choice between 388 prisoners sleeping on the floor on mattresses (*News*, 20/11) and 388 mothers sleeping in cars with their homeless children, I know where my vote would go.

Likewise, given the choice between building a new prison or a racetrack, I know where my vote would go. And it wouldn't be for the racetrack.



Anthony Albanese

Politicians have got to get over their desire to erect monuments to themselves, leading up to elections.

We need a new prison. Build one. We don't need a racetrack, no matter how much our Premier claims we voted for him to build it. We didn't.

How many parents could be housed with their children if the racetrack money was spent on basic, dry, no-frills accommodation, with mattresses on the floor?

I'm sure there are hundreds of mothers out there who would delight in being able to have their child sleep on a mattress.

Deirdre McGorry, Greenmount

Put victims first

I was concerned to read that a judge appeared to show leniency towards a prisoner who assaulted an 89-year-old man, seemingly on the grounds that the offender considered his prison conditions "unacceptable" (*News*, 19/11).

This was a serious attack on a vulnerable elderly man simply going about his day.

I believe the community expects the justice system to show greater consideration for victims of crime, and to ensure that their safety and wellbeing are placed at the forefront of sentencing decisions.

Ewin Armstrong, Mt Hawthorn

Comfort isn't an issue

It's time the judiciary realised that prisons are for punishment. Concerns about

prison conditions are absolute nonsense. The worse the prison condition, the less likely a person would want to revisit. Prisons shouldn't be a home away from home.

Andre Nel, Karakin

Put them in Bullsbrook

A simple solution to the overcrowding problem in our jails — instead of waiting however long it will take to build a new one, why not utilise the existing building in Bullsbrook, i.e. the shameless waste of money that was built during COVID?

Irene Sanderson, Kalamunda

What could go wrong?

First there was Metro-fail, delivered excessively over budget and well over time, with trains not stopping, doors not opening and very recently a derailling. Luckily no one was hurt.

Next there was Boorloo Bridge, with lighting falling to the ground. Again luckily no one was hurt.

What will be next, the public wonders, with the Burswood racetrack a foregone conclusion?

Seriously, what could go wrong with a racetrack close to public parklands that is built on a reclaimed rubbish tip?

And let's not forget the Matilda Bay ferry terminal at a location where people living with disabilities receive guidance and training in sailing, a site where there is limited parking and to which there is no public transport.

Nor the new women's hospital Labor insists will be built on land within the Fiona Stanley Hospital precinct, totally against the advice of medical experts, women's advisory groups and, importantly, against the wishes of future patients.

There's nothing like having a Labor Government that works for the people with the people, is there?

Brian Plester, Como