

One promise gets priority over others

The West Australian's editorial on Monday highlighted something the community knows only too well — election promises mean little unless there is the political will to deliver them.

That was clearly on display when Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti justified the oft repeated pre-election commitment to build Karnup Station for the rapidly growing Secret Harbour community (*News*, 3/8).

The Government's inconsistency in honouring its election commitments is plain to see. Despite significant and ongoing community opposition to the destruction of Burswood Park and the expenditure of at least \$217.5 million on the Perth Park supercars circuit, the project has raced ahead on the basis that it was an election commitment.

In contrast, the promise to build Karnup station — first made in 2012 — remains unfulfilled, with the Government still insisting that substantial funding must come from the Federal Government.

The contrast could not be clearer. One project has been fast-tracked since the 2025 State election, while Karnup station has been repeatedly announced before elections, only to be deferred yet again.

It brings to mind John Howard's distinction between "core" and "non-core" election promises.

Communities deserve governments that prioritise essential public transport infrastructure over politically attractive discretionary projects. On the evidence so far, this Government's priorities are clearly misplaced.

Robin Harvey, East Perth

No trust in their team

What does it say about the trust Roger Cook has in his party's candidate for Secret Harbour, Georgia Tree, when he refuses to give her permission to answer questions from media representatives (*News*, 3/8)? What was he afraid of?

It says heaps about the sheer and very visible arrogance of



Alston's cartoon on Monday.

the Cook Government and its contempt for those eligible to vote in the next State election.
Roy Stall, Mt Claremont

Can she talk if needed?

Let's say I live in Secret Harbour. Given Georgia Tree has been gagged by her superiors in media exchanges, could I be confident she has the capacity to stand up for my community when it counts?
Steve Douglas, Applecross

Insult to the electorate

Roger Cook and his band of union representatives that make up the Labor Government here in WA have clearly shown just what they think of the voters in the upcoming Secret Harbour by-election.

They obviously believe they are naive, have very short memories and can be easily bought.

They have also pre-selected a candidate who is not allowed to speak, which in itself speaks volumes for how she will be treated should she win.

I suppose only time will tell if their opinion of the voters is correct.

Peter Brophy, Murdoch

Not worth covering

The recent gagging of a political candidate at a media event exposes what these are really all about.

Daily propaganda where incumbent governments and their media spin doctors seek media coverage of their policies and actions.

Any probing questions from journalists are rarely answered and usually result in rehearsed one-liner of spin lacking any substance.

It would seem time for journalists to stop wasting their

time and give the public a break by not providing any coverage.
Alan Brown, Joondalup

Get out now, Georgia

The cartoon by Alston in Monday's West showing the Labor candidate for the Secret Harbour local election, Georgia Tree, being gagged by Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti is very fitting.

I also saw her gagged by Tony Buti a few days earlier on TV.

What is wrong? Hasn't she had the big Labor injection and therefore know what fibs and misleading information to tell the public?

How does the female rights group feel about a government that places a young female candidate in such a position but will not let her speak?

Is it a case of don't bring your brain or mouth, just nod in the background to something the leaders say?

I would like to say to Tree, run.

Jump while you can to save some self respect and go back to earning an honest living.

Otherwise you will be stuck in a sinking ship with no one to save you.

Rod Ware, Dudley Park

Shooting their own foot

I cannot stop laughing. Alston's cartoon about Roger and Rita gagging their candidate, Georgia Tree, for the upcoming Secret Harbour by election just nailed it.

Sunday's press conference, where Tree was ushered away before any journalist could ask her a single question was a Labor own goal.

Gary Clyne, Inglewood

Post now not enough

Many years ago in the City of Cockburn, we had a fairly colourful mayor named Don Miguel.

He once quipped that the seat of Fremantle was such a safe Labor seat that Labor could put up a fence post and it would be elected.

It seems in Secret Harbour that would no longer be enough.

Peter Riksmann, Coogee