

cost per person as a city of 200,000, and the costs to serve a remote mining town or community is exorbitant.

The commission also identifies the problem of a State having a disproportionately large share of a particular revenue source.

It focuses heavily on WA's mining royalties, but seems not to have examined whether the very large gambling-tax revenues generated in NSW and Victoria which are treated differently from mining revenue in GST calculations raise a similar question.

This isn't about asking for special treatment for WA. It is about making sure the same rules are applied fairly to everyone.

Before concluding that WA is receiving more than its fair share, the commission should make sure it has properly accounted for both sides of the equation — what States can raise and what it actually costs them to provide services.

Otherwise, we risk comparing apples with oranges and calling it equalisation.

Greg Berinson, Mt Hawthorn

Broken promise pending

If there was ever a doubt about WA retaining its current GST share it was well and truly laid to rest by Anthony Albanese preparing the groundwork to break yet another promise by saying WA would retain its "fair share" without elaborating what that might be.

It's almost a certainty that our weak Prime Minister will cave in to pressure from the Eastern States to steal it from

Western Australia. I wonder if Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti ever stopped to consider the damage their profligate spending — rugby teams, visiting international soccer teams, ripping up Burswood parkland in spite of fierce opposition from the public and other vanity projects — would do to WA's case to retain its existing share?

John Brooke, Woodlands

Rewarding failure

Isn't it fascinating to watch the actions of the so-called Productivity Commission?

One would imagine that their primary role would be to advise government on ways to improve the national productivity, as this is the single most important factor in growing the economy and enhancing our standard of living.

In a clear demonstration that they have lost their way, our national productivity is in the toilet and the only advice they can offer government is how to divide what is left using a methodology that rewards those States that fail to meet their own fiscal needs.

So the Federal Government, other States and the Productivity Commission have all failed.

God help us if we consider such outcomes successful.

Kevin Dobson, Victoria Park

Send PM a message

WA's GST share is very important to West Aussies.

The Secret Harbour by-election has an important part to play, so I beg the voters