

Ignoring the trillion-dollar question

Whilst anger and concern continues over the Federal Budget, the uncomfortable reality is that despite the hit to small businesses and ordinary Australians, our high-spending Treasurer is still forecasting an ever-growing national debt — projected to exceed \$1 trillion this year and climb to \$1.25 trillion by 2029-30.

What happened to the days when Australians were alarmed by a debt of \$500 billion in 2016 — less than half of what we are now expected to accept as normal?

Even more concerning is that this explosion in debt has occurred during a period of stronger-than-expected iron ore prices, generating massive mining royalties.

Rather than using those windfalls to strengthen the nation's balance sheet, governments at both State and Federal level have continued spending freely while leaving Australia dangerously reliant on a single commodity market.

If iron ore prices fall sharply, Australians may soon discover just how fragile this economic model really is.

Ross Taylor, Claremont

Payments perspective

John Brooke (*Letters*, 29/5) concluded his contribution with the comment, "remember it's our money". That is not the truth — it's borrowed money.

Federal Government borrowings are currently a trillion dollars, which is expected to grow by another \$200 billion to \$400 billion or so.

Many people have no idea of the relative differences between a million, a billion and a trillion.

If say, hypothetically, we were to pay those amounts back at say \$1 a second, a \$1 million debt would take 11 days, a \$1 billion debt would take 31 years, and a \$1 trillion debt would



Jim Chalmers

take 31,000 years — and that's if the debts were interest free.

Australia was debt-free in 2006, but due to government, of both persuasions, borrowing — which is not taxpayers' money — Australia has incurred \$300 billion in interest in the intervening years.

Brian McCann, Safety Bay

Not a happy chappy

The photograph of the Federal Treasurer on yesterday's front page certainly doesn't create a picture of happiness. He looks quite forlorn for one declaring a great Budget for Australians.

It's a look that certainly doesn't instil a great deal of confidence to the taxpayer.

This present Government seems lurch from one bad judgment to another. Lame excuses appear on a regular basis these days. There is certainly not a great deal of governance coming from them.

The only thing to look forward to now is an election, and then maybe a government that truly cares and listens to the electorate. Fingers crossed.

Richard Sims, Bull Creek

Cook knows who pays

Good to see Premier Roger Cook going in to bat for the mining industry (*News*, 29/5) — he surely knows what side of his toast the butter goes on.

Just think, if it wasn't for the miners where would he get all

the money for him and Wastealotti to buy all their little toys and fantasies?

Garry Williams, Dudley Park

They're not listening

Collie people can protest all they like about not wanting military weapons manufactured in their town, but it won't do them a scrap of good.

Eighty per cent of WA people did not want a rugby team or a racetrack and look what they got. Why would Roger Cook or Rita Saffioti listen to the very people who elected them? They'll just do whatever they want.

Sorry, people of Collie. Get used to the idea.

Bruce Offer, Bunbury

Future foolishness

I was having a quiet lemonade at the bowling club. The discussion was the widely reported State Budget surplus of \$3.5 billion.

There was conjecture whether a car racing track should be in the CBD of Bunbury or Joondalup, which country race clubs should get \$1 million to hold a million-dollar horse race at their cup carnival and whether Widgiemooltha needs an imported, second marbles club.

However, everyone was in agreement that whatever money was left over, it shouldn't be spent foolishly.

Cameron Bell, South Perth

Scattering the spin

The way this current State Government rolls out a never-ending plethora of news announcements that no one really cares about — or believes will ever happen — reminds me of old an old peanut farmer, Joh Bjelke-Petersen, who referred to press statements as "feeding the chooks".

Len Rogers, Willetton