s swift action is possible



Giorgia Meloni

Government is reaffirming that maintaining order and ensuring accountability are fundamental duties of the country.

The ultimate success of Meloni's Government will be judged on whether its law and order policies work over the long term, while still respecting the country's democratic rights.

O. Brown, Hillarys

Greens dividing us

Paul Murray is to be congratulated on his article (*Opinion*, 24/10) which clearly defines and reveals just how much the Greens are responsible for the ongoing divisions that plague our society. The accompanying photo of the usual suspects was a timely reminder how each of these parliamentary representatives have contributed to the divisive nature of society that now exists. The Greens lost my respect many years ago, and I cannot imagine that changing into the future based on what I continue to see and hear.

George Bowden, Wembley

Respect brings results

The editorial in Wednesday's The West Australian calls on politicians to engage respectfully to help cool the temperature of current debates across society.

It would certainly be one way to help prevent what happened to Helen Haines from happening again.

Another part of the solution would be for governments to improve how they exercise their authority.

Research by Griffith University points towards an approach known as "procedurally just governance".

According to Dr Kristina Murphy, professor of Criminology at Griffith, this means treating citizens with respect, making decisions fairly and without bias to not benefit one special-interest group over another, and being transparent about motives for legislation or new government processes. Equally importantly, it means giving people meaningful opportunities to be heard.

I believe much of the widespread anger in WA at present is caused by the Cook Government not being procedurally just.

Take just one example, the Burswood racetrack. No one asked for it, few want it, most regard it as a waste of taxpayers' money better spent on improving people's lives.

The racetrack was foisted on the community without consultation, all opposition was met with derision, the business case was flimsy, and approvals by government authorities contradicted good environmental and planning principles.

No wonder we are angry, and the destruction and noise of the project will stoke our anger till the next election.

Susanne Roberts, East Perth

Haines called for civility

Following the devastating injuries consciously inflicted on the highly respected independent member for Indi, Helen Haines, there has been widespread urging of the public to tone down their utterances in response to significant issues.

It is vastly more than ironic Helen Haines has consistently joined with her independent colleagues in urging civility in the behaviour and language of members of Parliament in Question Time, which is broadcast live to the nation.

So it is massively unedifying to observe those leaders from all sides who mock, sneer and deprecate their opponents in the interest of performing power and strength, and who are now sermonising the nation while failing to provide a worthy model themselves.

Elizabeth White, Daglish