

What would he think of today's EPA?

The late Professor Bert Main was a founding member and ultimately chair of the Environmental Protection Authority.

A famous quote of his was: "If a politician or a developer wants an answer in a hurry, that answer is 'no'."

It was noted in his obituary that this humble and gifted scientist did not suffer fools gladly.

Wonder what he would make of this week's decision by the State's environmental watchdog to ignore almost 1000 public submissions and opt not to investigate the Burswood racetrack project?

Cheryl Rogers, Swan Valley

Unreasonable inaction

A cornerstone of our western democracy is to have checks and balances made by independent bodies, where contentious government decisions are given closer scrutiny.

It is disappointing that the Environmental Protection Authority has chosen not to follow its mandate.

Reasonable people could view that it has given the Cook Government an inside run by not undertaking a formal assessment of the significant 953 environmental submissions regarding the Burswood racetrack development (*News*, 21/11).

It is unbelievable that the business case for this racetrack between the State Government and the Town of Victoria Park — and what this will mean eventually for its hapless ratepayers who invariably will foot the annual expenses — remain unknown.

The debate continues, despite the EPA setback!

Patrick Bourke, East Victoria Park

Bill will make it worse

Basil Zempilas (*Opinion*, 21/11) quite properly rages against the secrecy and unaccountability of all aspects of the Burswood racetrack project.

However, he and the Liberals



Professor Bert Main

are supporting the State Development Bill 2025, which concentrates absolute power in the State Premier and the Co-ordinator General.

This is despite Zempilas commenting on the Bill, "when authority is exercised without scrutiny, communities lose confidence and trust in the system altogether".

Selectively opposing certain dodgy projects, while supporting legislation that will forever entrench the likelihood of such projects in the future, is nothing other than hypocrisy.

Denzil McCotter, Swanbourne

Ignoring the locals

Brad Pettitt (*Opinion*, 21/11) refers to the Cook administration's "pathological disdain for local government".

This is evident in the State Government's reaction to council and community campaigns to save our urban greenery, noting that Perth has the lowest tree canopy of the capital cities.

In 2024, Minister John Carey rejected Nedlands Council's attempt to preserve trees on private property.

The minister has recently dismissed increased protection for remnant bushland in Joondalup.

Of the 31 areas requested by council and residents, just two received a higher conservation listing.

We live in a long, ever-hotter city — over 150km of it stretches along the coast, a global record.

Why does the Cook

Government not endorse community efforts to make our city more liveable?

Emma Coupland, Beldon

York steamrollered, too

Who says you can't rely on the Cook Labor Government? In fact you can rely on them to do whatever they like, completely going against public opinion.

The racetrack, for instance, and switching funds from the upgrade of the convention centre to hospitals to look good, when there was money that should have always been available for health, imposing onerous new gun laws making life difficult for law-abiding country people, crippling the agricultural sector with the live sheep ban and now, the icing on the cake after 14 years of prevaricating, they give the landfill site in York the go-ahead even though they made a pre-election promise that it would not go ahead.

I was there when the local candidate made that promise in public. Plus there have been massive objections from residents and visitors alike.

So, again, more facilities and benefits for the city, but for all of you who love to visit our fine town for our many festivals, to visit family and friends, to see the canola, to have a taste of heritage, how do you feel about battling with an unending trail of rubbish trucks — laden with your rubbish — on your journey along Great Eastern Highway and then on the Great Southern Highway almost all the way to York?

We hope you are still prepared to do that as we need your support and we need to keep our attraction as a tourism destination, either for that short getaway day trip or to stay a while and enjoy all that the Avon Valley has to offer.

Think about giving us your support, please, by finding out what is really going on that affects your country cousins.

Shame on you Premier Cook.

Karen Thomas, York

Not a big-game hero

Poor old Joe Root reminds me of another sportsman — North Melbourne's Wayne Carey. Root may be a good cricketer, but against Australia he is just average. Carey was undoubtedly a good AFL player, but against the Eagles and Glen Jackovich was just very average.

Garry Williams, Dudley Park

Alston passes the Test

What sets Alston apart from other distinguished cartoonists is his knowledge of historical events, and especially his ability to tune into literary events, particularly Australian ones. And there could be little more Australian than A.B. Paterson's *The Man From Snowy River*. Yesterday's cartoon is another classic artwork to join the collection on The West's walls.

Ron Elliott, Palmyra

Hear the roar again

Watching the Ashes on Aussie soil and going from room to room doing housework, you can certainly tell that Australia isn't playing against India — you can hear the Aussie crowd again when the locals take wickets.

Pete Alby, Bentley

Forever England

I'm sitting in front of the TV, wearing a bowler hat, belt and braces, and bover boots, tea, Horlicks and Bovril at the ready. You can take the Pom out of England and make him an Australian citizen, but it only increases his penchant of going for the underdog.

Rhys Winterburn, City Beach

SUBSCRIBERS' CORNER

On the Eagles missing out on father-son prospect Charlie Banfield:

For years West Coast have been criticised for being soft in its player management approach, and rightly so. So finally they appear to be taking a more ruthless approach and are recruiting players on merit and in line with the wider football community's expectations. Yet this has attracted a pile-on from some. The irony!

Oscar H

On Team Albanese's Perth visit accommodation woes:

It's a small inconvenience considering he doesn't have to line up for a rental or try and buy a house in this city for under \$1 million.

Victor M

On the EPA's decision not to investigate the Burswood racetrack development:

So why have an environment watchdog? Looks like they are happy to destroy what makes Perth attractive. So why stop there? Let's bulldoze all of Kings Park and put up council flats and another racetrack, NRL rugby team and film studio.

Frank F

Hand-balling aged care to families

In Australia, an aged-care tsunami is approaching as our governments doze at the steering wheel.

The outcome, which could become catastrophic, is likely to result in Australia's biggest blot on its history, with the elderly suffering enormous lack of care — in fact abandonment — together with total loss of dignity as they reach their twilight years.

Thousands of Australians are languishing in public hospitals although fit to be discharged, but with the severe scarcity of beds in aged-care facilities a crisis will — not maybe — become a major disaster for our governments.

Currently over 3700 patients are marooned in hospitals averaging a stay of 298 days while waiting for permanent aged-care placements.



A crisis is looming for the elderly.

States around a total of \$3.7 million a day.

One Queenslanders is reported to have spent eight months in a hospital bed he no longer needs.

The fact is that Australia is desperately short of residential aged-care facilities and the current ones we have do not have dedicated secure dementia

On November 1, the Federal Government's new Australian Aged Care Act came into effect. The central plank of this Act is providing increased and new support at home services, which the Government believes should alleviate pressure on the lack of beds in permanent aged-care facilities. Wrong!

Quite frankly, it is a short-term band-aid fix for a problem which will continue to fester and grow exponentially.

The Government is simply shifting the responsibility of carers to family members who will endure huge mental pressures on their wellbeing — and many are likely to require assistance for themselves at some time in the future.

The Federal Government has essentially abrogated their duties and responsibilities in looking after our elderly and