

West Aussies want sustainable energy, but not at any cost

1 Just eight months after he was re-elected, Roger Cook spent most of last weekend shoring up his leadership. How odd he should have to do that so soon into this term. His huge hospital backflip after months of denial and “world-class” claims didn’t land the way he’d hoped. People saw through the “convenient” convention centre cancellation. And the claim his new hospital infrastructure would be built with “local green steel” when none exists, was a disaster. It should have been a big weekend for the Premier, instead it was an exercise in desperate stage-managed PR.

2 When the public stop buying what you’re selling, and your own team start to

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doubt the messenger’s ability to deliver the right message, the wheels get wonky. And it can’t be pleasant looking over your shoulder all the time. But the biggest killer for the Premier is the perception the State Government has stopped listening. The racetrack, the rugby league team spend, the ferry terminals in the wrong location — they’re all symbols for how this team operates.

3 The other big problem for the Premier: he’s lost his moral compass. This week

Labor MP Dave Kelly said “I think the decision to require Dion Barber to relive his sexual abuse through the court case was a really poor one.” Dave Kelly is spot on. Premier, why are you adding to Mr Barber’s suffering?

4 The Business Council of Australia has ranked WA the second worst State to do business. Their biggest concerns: payroll tax, land tax and retail trading hours.

5 I’m pleased my Federal colleagues have committed to emissions reduction, because that’s what West Australians overwhelmingly tell me they want. To walk away from that ambition would have been a mistake. Our consistent

focus in the West has been on reliable, affordable and sustainable energy — but not at any cost. Under the Cook Labor Government household and business power prices keep going up. Holding the Premier and his Energy Minister to account on their unrealistic energy transition will remain an absolute priority.

6 I won’t go over it blow by blow, but the use of the term “Fuhrer” this week by a Labor Upper House MP was hugely offensive. In particular, it was incredibly insensitive and hurtful to Jewish Liberal MP, Simon Ehrenfeld who was sitting in the President’s chair at the time. There’s no place for that behaviour in Parliament.

7 Reports out of Melbourne suggest AC/DC frontman Brian Johnson’s voice is just fine. Get ready Perth, he and Angus will be here in December.

8 I said Cam Green would make a century next bat. Ninety-four. Close.

9 The headlines are nearly as exciting as the cricket will be. Bring on the Ashes.

10 I don’t know what to think about the AFL’s wildcard round yet. I reckon we need to see it play out to get a true sense but imagine if the team that finished 10th won the flag.

Basil Zempilas is the Opposition Leader

