

Do leaders have the heart to go on?

It is less than 12 months since the WA election was held in March last year.

During that time all the Cook Government seems to have done is to fight fires as a result of defending unpopular policy decisions or their inaction in dealing with specific issues.

Numerous ones that come to mind are the Burswood racetrack project, the total ban on demersal fishing, the illegal tobacco trade and various major issues in health and education, just to name a few.

Just recently Cook backflipped by extending a taxpayer-funded lifeline to the foreign-owned Griffin coal mine in Collie (*News*, 22/1), which is in debt to the tune of \$1 billion, which confirms that his Government's renewal energy strategy has failed.

Watching Cook at media conferences after his return from holidays, his body language said it all — he'd rather not be there!

I'm not sure how he will survive another three years in office and my prediction is that he is likely to retire before the next election due in 2029.

In addition, I wouldn't be at all surprised if his deputy Rita Saffioti also retired as she achieves 20 years in State politics come 2028.

With no obvious leadership successors in the Labor Party, the next election will be much closer than people expect.

Bruce Strang, Jolimont

Subjective listening

When it comes to the demersal fishing ban, Premier Roger Cook told angry fishers that he didn't just choose the science to suit his politics.

He said the science was the science, and he even invited the protesters to sit down with the experts and go through their work.



Roger Cook

When it comes to the science of climate change, however, suddenly the science is not the science for Premier Cook.

Gas becomes a transition fuel rather than a fossil fuel and protecting the environment takes a back seat when there's money to be made by developers and mining companies.

Perhaps Cook should take up his own excellent suggestion to sit down with experts on this topic.

If he's so keen to protect future fish stocks for generations to come, he should welcome any opportunity to protect our threatened species, natural vegetation and clean air, too.

Ellie Ward, Margaret River

Coal going nowhere

The reality is that all forms of fossil fuels will be required worldwide for many years to come.

Industrialised, productive, affluent nations require a guaranteed source of energy in its various forms 24/7 throughout the year — base load power.

Human experience indicates that fossil fuels provide this guarantee. The only other sources of energy that fit the bill are nuclear and hydro. Nuclear is feasible in WA, not so hydro.

At present WA's electricity

supply is about 75 per cent from gas and coal. This proportion is not going to diminish anytime soon — not unless we accept a more costly and lower standard of living.

Deric Davidson, Bunbury

Find an alternative first

Well, well, well. A politician has finally realised we still need coal.

You should never get rid of anything until you have an alternative, and renewable energy is still so far away. Can you imagine the amount of power used on Wednesday with the 41C heat?

A bit of common sense for a change — very unusual.

Don Kinzett, Duncraig

Be like Lara, polities

If only our politicians had the fortitude and determination of Lara Jensen in her fight for lights on trains.

They're not so much like the three wise monkeys — hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil — but more like hear nothing, see nothing, do nothing.

I'll support Lara as long as this fight goes on. She, her family and others who have suffered tragic losses in collisions with trains deserve nothing less.

Raelene Hall, Leeming

How do we get seen?

If every person who is currently supporting an aged relative at home awaiting a place in an aged-care facility took their loved one to the local hospital and stayed there in the ER, the wards, or the waiting room for a whole day, perhaps our Government would then have to acknowledge the size of the problem and the sheer number of families doing this work quietly behind the scenes with little to no pay and even less help.

Rachel Woods, Kirup