

# Foresight is ever more necessary

On reading about the projected growth in the population of WA (*News*, 10/1), I began hoping Premier Roger Cook has put more thought into forward planning than he has done over the past four years.

The previous growth in our State has led to lack of housing, higher rents, overcrowded hospitals, increased waiting times for specialists, underfunded emergency services, underfunded schools, the list goes on. The token 1000 homes being built in Wanneroo had better be big, apparently they will each have to house 54 people (going on the projected 54000 influx of people to WA this year), plus the already homeless.

I recently witnessed a fire truck full of our brave firefighters racing to another blaze, and on the side of the truck was written "Under Resourced Under Fire!" and I thought how appropriate that is. It applies to all our hospitals, police, fire brigade, schools and housing. But at least we will have a racetrack. I hope at least



**Premier Roger Cook.**

this Premier understands sarcasm because it appears he understands little else.

**Steve Laidler, Brabham**

## Affordable education key

While a lot of attention correctly has been on the state of our health system, it is disturbing to note education costs in government, Catholic and independent schools have soared (*News*, 15/1).

Rising inflation and increasing cost of living have put pressure on families with school children to fund education expenses. Added to

this, rising rent and/or mortgage costs is making life very tough. As we struggle, there is going to be a shift from children now or in the future from private to government schools. This will put pressure on our State Budget which is currently in good shape. Education is necessary and far too important to ignore the warning signs. The need for more government schools and staffing resources is urgent.

We pride ourselves on being in a lucky country. We also need clever people to have the necessary skills, knowledge and ability to manage a very competitive and complex digital world. I urge the Government to pay more attention to our educational needs otherwise our economy will be stagnant or, worse still, go backwards.

Housing and population pressures will mean less reliance on imported skill migrants. Education is the key that will open larger and new doors for our next generations.

Time to act now.  
**Chris Krishnan, Madeley**

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