Signs have been obvious

What do these issues have in common — building a racetrack, banning live sheep exports, restricting fishing along our coast, and punishing 80,000 drivers for minor sash-belt infringements committed by their passengers?

In every case, the Cook Government's handling of the issue has appeared arrogant, ideology-driven and remarkably lacking in empathy for the Western Australians affected.

Yet Labor ministers and political staffers now seem puzzled by the backlash against their party in last weekend's Secret Harbour by-election.

The warning signs have been there for some time.

When governments stop listening, dismiss legitimate concerns and treat ordinary citizens and small business owners as inconveniences, voters eventually respond in the only way they can — at the ballot box.

Just connect the dots, Roger.

Ross Taylor, Claremont