

Roger Cook must come clean on cost of Burswood racetrack

1 At this very moment, somewhere on his desk, the Premier has a copy of the finalised business case into the Burswood racetrack project. You can bet the Deputy Premier has a copy, too. Given it's the business case into the most talked about government project of the year, you'd think they'd let us all see it, you know, to judge for ourselves whether the project actually stacks up — and the small matter of how much it's actually going to cost. But no, not Roger and Rita. The secret squirrels' contempt for the public of WA is now so brazen, they're not going to release it at all.

How's that gold standard transparency going now?

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2 We'll get a summary, we're told. With no clarity about when or how much detail it will contain. If it's like the one-page photocopy they handed out for the rugby team, it'll be nothing more than a spin sheet — fitting for a racetrack. Although they've told us the business case is finished, this week in Parliament, the Premier said he couldn't tell us the final cost or if they need to acquire any land from Crown Casino, because the final track design is still being done! Hey?

3 The Environmental Protection Authority will not be investigating the Burswood racetrack project. Nearly 1000 members of the public made submissions, but EPA chair Darren Walsh says he's comfortable any noise or other environmental issues can be managed.

4 The first day of the first Test — and it's an Ashes Test. And it's in Perth. Does it get any better? Go well Australia, and go well West Aussie cricket fans.

5 By the way, Pat Cummins' men will win the toss and bat, of course.

6 In a State as prosperous as WA, we should have the best hospitals, the best

schools and every West Australian should be able to get into a home.

It's shameful there was now 7755 applicants on the priority social housing wait list — an increase of 1640 in the past 12 months. Six years ago only 1660 applicants were on the list. These numbers are appalling.

7 Convicted drug traffickers and violent criminals are being released back into the community because our prison system is in disarray. What a shocking failure from the Cook Labor Government. For judges to be handing out reduced sentences because they have lost confidence in the prison system is totally unacceptable and the Premier appears to be in denial.

8 The peaceful but very meaningful Accountability for Children in Education backpack protest on the steps of Parliament on Thursday told the stories of children with a disability and their families and educators, and what they have to endure. It was a pleasure to attend and acknowledge their call for greater support.

9 To the big issues — Christmas decorations. Ours went up this week.

10 Does anyone know how that father/son AFL points system works? Duckworth-Lewis is easier to understand.

Basil Zempilas is the Opposition Leader

