



Smithy hits mark yet again

Smithy's cartoon of January 18 says it all when it comes to the arrogant, wasteful spending of our State Labor Government.

Ratings agency S&P has warned them that WA can't afford to keep indulging in sugar-hit spending on subsidies that have now reached \$4 billion ("Time to rein it in Rita", TST Jan 18).

Commission for Economic Development Australia chief economist Cass Winzar says these subsidies are not the way to address the cost of living, but getting inflation under control by restraining spending is. Even in light of these warnings, the Treasurer, rather than reducing the State's mounting debt, intends to borrow nearly \$5b to support her incessant spendathon.

This reckless spending on vote-catching subsidies and personal vanity projects "because they can" just doesn't cut it, and neither does not providing essential community services and the required funds and resources when they could. The arrogance and hubris of this out-of-touch Government is beyond belief.

ALAN FREIND
Leeming

Tradie lure a dud

With interstate and intrastate

growth in Perth ("In search of an easier life", TST, Jan 18), this is putting more pressure on availability of suitable housing.

A lot of the housing lots becoming available over the next five years are in outer metro areas as part of housing estate developments.

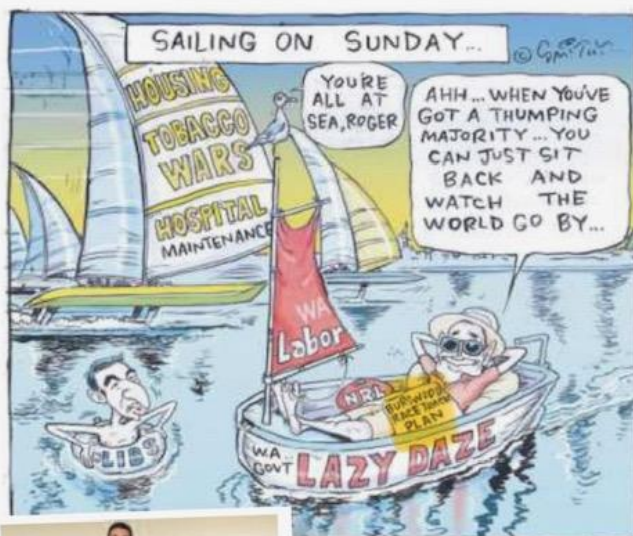
The only problem is that this population growth is not bringing in more tradies as part of the \$10,000 incentive ("Tradies arrive, but not enough", TST, Jan 18). This is a real catch-22 situation. We need more tradies to build more houses to cater for our population growth. Perhaps the \$10,000 incentive amount is not quite enough to attract these tradies.

RON PECKITT
Duncraig

Give 'em the tools

It seems to me that there is a need for an SOS call for tradies in WA and, when considering that 12,000 of them are required every year, as indicated by Housing Industry Association WA boss Michael McGowan ("Tradies arrive, but not enough", Jan 18), we need to move quickly.

We also need to instil in parents the necessity to encourage their teenagers to enter the tradies' world because besides being



In search of an easier life

Intensive and extirpative migration have been causing the rapid decline of Florida's recent population growth.

Angelina Struganov, who was raised in Gainesville, 27 miles south-east of the CBD, "I didn't want to be so far south of the river, but we had to compromise, because of my husband's job," she said. "We didn't want to be driving for hours a day to a rapidly growing suburb."

"There's a lot of construction happening there has been a lot of blocks coming in so there's going to be a lot of homes going up," she said.

"They're also building a lot of new shopping centers."

we cannot have Australia filled with pen-pushers only; someone must carry the load! On top of that, WA has had the fastest-growing population in the country for the past two years and it's up to us to resurrect the love of being a tradie!

MARIO RAPANARO
Dianella

Sort it in the boot

I look forward to reading Ben Harvey's opinion article each week.

I appreciate his talent and I love his sense of humour. Last week, however ("Top 100 things I want erased in 2026") I found myself disagreeing with his shopping-bag issue. I was a happy camper when single-use plastic bags were banned.

Treasurer warned to stop the sugar-hit spending as subsidies surge to \$4

TIME TO REIN IT IN RITA



NEWLY TINNED INTO MANPOWER

\$1.17b Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty	\$139.9m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty
\$517m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty	\$87.6m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty
\$251.5m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty	\$8.2m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty
\$247.6m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty	\$6.1m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty
\$1.5m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty	\$1.5m Sears Roebuck & Co. retail specialty

without any bags, even though I had a boot load in the car. The simple solution is just to load your shopping back into the trolley and sort it into bags in the carpark. So simple! And not annoying at all!

JOHANNA LEE
Jolimont

Shopper savings

I have a solution, Ben ("Top 100 things I want erased in 2026").

Load your shopping back into the trolley after purchase then decant into bags in the car before heading home.

Saved \$1.20 or 60c and broken paper bags. Yeah!

ROBYN WALKINGTON
Mount Pleasant

Grinding my gears

Ben Harvey's list in last week's
The Sunday Times of things