

Want a GST show bag? Do the work

One sibling saves the earnings from a paper round, while another spends their pocket money as it comes and doesn't have a job. When the Royal Show arrives, the second complains it is unfair that the first has money for show bags and insists they share it.

Ring any bells, Victoria?

Our GST system was never designed to punish prudence or reward spending, but that is the danger when fiscal equalisation is taken too far.

We have been fortunate in our resources, but fortune alone didn't build the Pilbara. Successive governments developed those resources, built the infrastructure and, mostly, managed the proceeds prudently.

Our resources underpin Australia's trade balance and Commonwealth revenue. That revenue does not stop at the Nullarbor, even if the Brisbane Line once did.

Of course Australians should have access to decent essential services wherever they live. But there comes a point when equalisation stops compensating for genuine hardship and starts insulating governments from the consequences of their own spending.

Perhaps the rest of Australia should spend a little less time asking what more it can take from WA and a little more asking what it can learn from us.

Mary Barrett-Lennard, Claremont

Money's wasted anyway

What happens if we miss out on the \$7 billion of GST revenue?

Well, we won't get our Burswood racetrack, we won't



Goodies should be earned.

get our rugby league team, we won't get rock concerts at Burswood or any of the pet projects of the Premier and Deputy Premier. To me, that's a win-win situation.

But if that money was going into our health and education system, then I would be very unhappy.

John Anderson, Mindarie

Narrative will change

Can the Prime Minister be trusted? Anthony Albanese had constantly affirmed that there will be no change to WA's share of the GST. The narrative has now changed to WA will get a "fair deal".

Does that mean we will now receive around \$7 billion less per annum, pursuant to the latest recommendations from the Productivity Commission?

Will we be told the Government has "changed its position, as circumstances have changed"?

That mantra did not work well for the Government when it broke its promises regarding negative gearing and capital gains taxes and sent a wrecking ball through the property market.

By referring to his colleagues

as "east coast clowns" our Labor Premier Roger Cook has no confidence in our GST status quo being maintained.

WA needs to help itself. We can enhance our budget bottom line by lifting the ban on uranium mining to generate substantial export income for our State by delivering uranium to numerous countries for their energy needs.

Jeff Trudgian, Carlisle

Days of largesse over

One would be wrong for blaming Labor for the GST imbroglio.

The Coalition, under Angus Taylor, will need to make a decision as to whether it supports the current system or wants change. This decision should be made when the final report of the Productivity Commission is released.

The politics is pretty easy. Five States will be calling for change, one will oppose.

The sheer mass of the voting population of the other States will outweigh WA in the considerations of both major parties.

WA's time of getting more GST has come to an end.

John Rome, Mt Lawley

Secede, and keep it all

Roger Cook, let's start cooking and turn up the heat.

WA is the best place on earth to live. Perth is the best city in the world. I've travelled.

If WA seceded, we would be financially secure and everyone here and their families would have a much brighter future.

The mob on the east would go broke.

Warren Hills, Mt Pleasant