Burswood racetrack plan is bread and circuses for bogans

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Hilary Clinton called them Donald Trump's "deplorables" and Andrew Hastie — the Liberal who won well in Canning — set out to appeal to voters who "drove utes and pick-ups".

Before our State election, Labor identified "bogans" and they are the confidential key to the Government's misguided support for bare-knuckle to proceed with a racetrack no one wants?

The answer is secret pre-election polling that convinced Labor strategists the party lacked support from what its pollster described as the "bogan vote" which is thought not to be that interested in the cost of living, housing, interest rates or the environment.

Once publicly committed in the run-up to the election, there was no one better to lead the Government's charge to identify and win the bogan vote than the Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti, with her single-minded very "yesterday"; everyone knows WWE is acting, not sport, and rugby league is played in NSW and Queensland but rugby union is dominant internationally.

It hasn't escaped attention that able political newbie Daniel Pastorelli — who supports Saffioti strongly — has carriage of the plan to implement the race track.

Pastorelli was a valued Labor staffer originally working for Saffioti; is a close family friend and now has the job of explaining and selling the racetrack plan. What has morphed into a new claim that the track is part of long standing plans to develop Burswood. I know a little about those plans and a street motorsport circuit was never part of anyone's thinking.

It is absolutely true that when Burswood was chosen as the site for Perth's only casino, the thought was that the area from the Causeway to Belmont Park Racecourse would be developed into Perth's premier leisure, sporting, gaming and leisure precinct.

The tennis centre fits in well and Colin Barnett's decision to better spent elsewhere. But back to the polls that prompted the problem. Most politicians put store in polls; it's the nature of the beast. But very few live by them and the good ones use them to measure their success in gaining support for a policy objective.

The principle is that polls are no substitute for vision and, unfortunately, in the 21st century the cart is being put before the horse as average politicians use polls not to shape and improve policy but to identify and determine it.

Opinion polls sometimes