

If you build it, they will not come

What an ugly vision the Burswood redevelopment plan has to destroy the picturesque park (*News*, 24/11).

An amphitheatre would be great, but why can't it be like the Domain in Sydney or the Sidney Myer Music Bowl in Melbourne?

Having been to many concerts in both places they have been hugely popular and very family friendly for decades.

As for the racetrack, will it really attract hordes from the east?

Having gone to races both in Adelaide and Brisbane whilst living in Melbourne, it was a lot cheaper than flying to Perth will be.

People I've gone with have all said they wouldn't come, especially with the current cost of living.

The police have enough to do without hooning on the track to worry about.

Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti, don't hold your breath at the next election. Amber-Jade Sanderson, don't get excited, either.

Listen to both our mayor and the thousands of West Australians.

Denise Miley, East Victoria Park

Spin can't hide faults

The Cook Government is at it again — more spin than a Shane Warne over.

The now revised Burswood racetrack has been transformed into something else, as displayed in the "Introducing Perth Park" advertisement yesterday.

It is still a racetrack, given the presence of Supercar drivers at the Roger and Rita press conference.

There seem to be some significant omissions if it is a raceway — grandstands and parking for all those trucks, etc, on race days. There are many other logistical items conveniently missed in this tree-lined artist's impression of



The proposed racetrack.

smoke and mirrors. We are being treated like fools with this absolute con job steamrolled upon the WA taxpayer.

How convenient that it is all still within the original \$217 million cost estimate, which consequently excuses them from their commitment that if it was costing more than the estimate it would not happen.

If Treasurer Rita Saffioti is in charge of the project, what chance is there of it coming in on budget and on time?

How about she underwrites the difference between the budget and final cost?

Kevin Bown, Hocking

Totally uninspiring

When taxpayers are staring at a \$217.5 million bill, you'd expect broad public support — yet Treasurer Rita Saffioti continues to push ahead with the rebadged "Perth Park".

Many West Australians are still asking, who actually wants this?

Concerns only grow when the project's "independent" business case turns out to rely on government-supplied information that hasn't been independently verified.

That hardly inspires confidence in the project's value or transparency.

In the same edition, the State Government uses an advertisement to urge readers to back WA's GST share to protect essential services such

as schools, hospitals and infrastructure. But it's difficult for taxpayers to reconcile that message with a Government willing to spend such a large sum on a project many regard as far from essential.

Ewin Armstrong, Mt Hawthorn

Ignoring the real issues

It does seem extraordinary that the leaders of our State are so obsessed with their pet projects that they can not pay more attention to the real needs of WA.

Whilst we continue to have so many homeless on our streets and a dire shortage of rental housing (*News*, 24/11), our so-called leaders are hell bent on having a racetrack complex built costing millions of dollars of taxpayers money.

Apart from a tremendous amount of noise and air pollution, what benefit would this complex be to the average West Australian? Very little I think, unless you are a petrol head.

I find it difficult to understand our leaders' priorities and I just see it as a selfish desire to have their names somewhere hung on to their proposed enterprises.

They should remove their rose-tinted glasses and see what really needs doing for Western Australia.

Richard Sims, Bull Creek

Shrinkflation, Rita-style

We've all heard of shrinkflation. A block of chocolate that was 200g, reduced to 180g, yet the price remains the same.

Which brings me to the Burswood. Rita Saffioti's original plans included a 20,000-seat stadium and the estimated cost was \$217.5m.

Now the stadium size has been reduced to 12,000 but the price is still the same.

Perth Park is a dreadful name. Given the above, I much prefer Rita's Retreat.

Gary Clyne, Inglewood

Labor puts polities before the people

Allocating \$217.5 million of our money to build a racetrack during a housing shortage (*News*, 24/11), smacks of a government thumbing its nose at the plight of many of its people.

Government of the people, by the politicians, for the politicians?

Worse yet, the skilled labour needed to build the racetrack means many tradespeople will be taken out of the already short-of-workers building industry.

Is this what we voted for?
Bernard Eastman, City Beach

Five years of inattention

So, in five years we have gone from the most affordable city in Australia to the one with the worst rental affordability (*Editorial*, 24/11).

To my way of thinking, this conundrum demonstrates inefficiency.



Roger Cook

How could Roger Cook not have picked up on the vibes created by the avalanche of people arriving to live in Perth each day?

A roof over people's head is the priority for any government to consider — the other "distractions" can be attended later.

And, while attending to this precarious situation, I would like to suggest to the Premier

high for Mr and Ms Average to pay out.

Mario Rapanaro, Dianella

Once-proud city ruined

It was distressing to read Kath Snell's article on the rental crisis (*Opinion*, 24/11). It is not new information, but it is now worse than ever. Yesterday's editorial also reports that "more people are in danger of falling through the cracks".

These future predictions however, are inaccurate. It has already occurred and many have already fallen.

Have you taken a drive around Perth lately? Parked vans with people living in them are everywhere.

I've blasted Labor for years, and they fully deserve it. They have turned the wonderful place I grew up in into a completely unaffordable, increasingly violent wasteland.

They are a total disgrace. It is