

Distractions won't last

So our Treasurer has finally 'fessed up that the Burswood racetrack will cost more than \$217 million (*News*, 16/5).

This figure doesn't even get close to the additional landscaping, transport, signage, traffic lights, etc., that will also be needed.

What is really interesting about the deal is a disclosure that the State has acquired a \$34 million property in exchange for one worth \$16 million. Do we really believe that a public company would forgo \$18 million without some quid pro quo?

Now that Rita has this newfound transparency, maybe she should give us some updates on a few other pet projects, particularly the business case.

The \$200 million Malaga film studio's first project is apparently a six-part drama for Stan – wow!

How about some information about the Bears rugby team? And finally, the electric ferries and all the required infrastructure?

If we rolled these four activities into a public company, any prospective shareholders wouldn't be bothered by capital gains tax. Negative gearing wouldn't be an issue either — there'd be nothing left to gear.

The State Government is very fortunate that there are so many other diversions occurring at the moment on the political landscape, but the fog will soon clear.

John Nelson, Claremont

Go back to golf

Good grief — it looks like the racetrack is going to cost more (*News*, 16/5).

Are we surprised? Until the bulldozers moved in, there was the remains of what was an 18-hole golf course still there.

It certainly wouldn't have taken \$217 million-plus to resurrect nine holes for people to enjoy — with only the occasional bad shot and a curse to shatter the tranquillity.

Mark Duder, Kallaroo