

Tour city to see what is truly needed

The next time that our Premier and the Treasurer tour the proposed site of the Burswood racetrack — sorry, Perth Park as they insist it be known — I would ask them to take a few minutes to travel a further 4km to Carlisle railway station and take a tour of the empty and almost derelict building that sits opposite, and which now houses two groups of homeless people.

Perhaps this small detour might convince them that housing is a far more urgent matter than building an unwanted racetrack?

They could then take a wander down Archer Street to Albany Highway in Victoria Park and witness the many homeless sleeping on footpaths or in doorways in this area.

But I doubt that it will move them to action, they seem hell-bent on pouring a lot of money into the racetrack, and very little into solving the housing crisis.

Trish Bradshaw, Carlisle

Scrap track and add seats

I cannot believe the total lack of logic in the thinking of Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti in reducing the size of the Burswood amphitheatre whilst retaining the hugely unpopular racetrack. The Domain in Sydney has a total capacity of 50,000 — scaling back the amphitheatre from 20,000 to 12,000 shows incredible lack of vision, especially given over 50,000 attended the Optus Stadium last Friday for the Test match.

If the reason for this is partly to reduce costs, wouldn't it make so much more sense to scrap the racetrack and use those funds to keep the theatre at 20,000?

Lesley Smithers, South Perth

Flawed business case

The number of strongly worded letters in The West regarding proposed developments at



The planned development.

Burswood is absolutely unsurprising.

The socio-environmental impacts are underplayed and the business case quite simply doesn't stack up.

Spare a thought also for Matilda Bay. Many of us would have picnicked there, watched the fireworks, taught our kids how to swim and paddle, dropped them off for rowing and sailing, walked the dog unimpeded along the shoreline and enjoyed a coffee at the tearooms 5m from the water.

In any other capital city Matilda Bay would be an icon, and possibly worthy of heritage listing. Not so here in Perth. Developers have already squeezed a high-rise building at the northern end and now we will see a loss of parking, trees and general amenity with a large jetty for ferries.

It is likely the only users will be some university students with concessional passes and for about 37 weeks a year, noting also the numerous well-serviced and more proximate bus bays right on Stirling Highway.

The business case is unworthy of even putting pen to paper.

Like Burswood, the decimation of Matilda Bay can only be described as irreversible social and environmental vandalism.

I'm sure this won't stop Rita Saffioti and Roger Cook from donning a captain's hat and

high-vis vest to break the Bollinger on the bow when the first empty boat arrives.

John Nelson, Claremont

Do they read this page?

Rita Saffioti's points eight, nine and 10 (*Opinion*, 27/11) all relate to the racetrack and Perth Park. Does she or Roger ever read the letters every day in The West? If they did, they would notice an overwhelming negative response to all those plans.

Do us all a favour and backtrack on this plan — it will end up as another white elephant in this great State of ours.

Irene Sanderson, Kalamunda

Earplugs firmly in

Revhead Roger needs hearing protection while attending car races as he is deaf to West Australians who overwhelmingly oppose his scaled-up Scalextric fantasies.

Instead, he seems to have put the earplugs in to avoid listening to the public clamour.

There's a lot of nice things you could do with \$217 million (plus inevitable cost overruns). There are hospitals, public housing, schools, and beautifying and maintaining public areas, among other desperately needed items on the to-do list.

The approach to Perth from the airport via Burswood with the parkland and water features tells visitors, tired from their long flight, that this is a city of beauty. Go explore!

Alternatively, a racetrack and all the concrete around it just says that Perth's just another try-hard that doesn't get it. Put your toy cars away, Roger, and grow up. Perth has.

Peter Markham, Bassendean

Budgeting issue

If the BoM weather website cost \$96.5 million, how's a race track going to cost \$217 million?

Danielle Dufall, East Victoria Park