

Labor ignored all the warning signs

Premier Roger Cook has said that he got the message the voters of Secret Harbour sent when they elected the One Nation candidate for the previous safe Labor seat (*News*, 31/8).

But did the Premier really get the message? I doubt it.

Cook and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese should have got the message when first Simone McGurk almost lost the safe seat of Fremantle at the State election, to be followed by Josh Wilson, who also nearly lost the safe Federal seat to independent Kate Hulett.

So why did Cook and Albanese fail to get those very clear messages, that the voters are no longer willing to accept glib answers, spin and empty promises?

Were they not listening, or have they become so complacent that they believe they can dismiss any opposition as that of some right-wing loonies, now that the Liberal party has made itself irrelevant?

The real and perceived cost-of-living crisis makes very many people questioning the value of the many millions of dollars spent on attracting millionaire sports stars to Western Australia, or building a racetrack at Burswood.

When going to the GP is a major budget decision for many of us, and when the cheapest meat cuts at the supermarket will have to do, the extravagant waste of taxpayers' money is rightly frowned upon.

The WA and Federal governments need to get their priorities right.

Roel Loopers, Fremantle

A year of deaf ears

Once again we are told by Labor that they realise now they must listen to the community.

Over the past 12 months and more, there is absolutely no evidence whatsoever that they



Roger Cook & Anthony Albanese.

have listened to the public. Have they listened when we say we don't want a racetrack? Have they listened when we say to consider an alternative site for a ferry terminal?

Have they listened when we don't want expensive entertainers or sporting clubs brought to WA?

There are many more examples of them ignoring us.

If Labor had really listened and given any credibility to what we really want, they most likely would not have lost the recent by-election.

They now have possibly 12 months to demonstrate they are genuinely listening or seriously risk losing the next State election.

Viv Barker, Mt Claremont

Meeting expectations

After the debacle of Secret Harbour, Roger Cook says "I will listen to the people".

That's exactly what we expected from him.

But what he didn't say is just as important. He didn't explain why he hadn't been listening up until now.

He didn't say he would actually do something after he had listened.

He would gain so much kudos from "sorry" actions such as stopping the racetrack at Burswood and the buying of a rugby franchise and actually spending the savings on the homeless or some other need that didn't involve Rita Saffioti

opening it or tossing a coin. If he did this, he might stand a chance of a re-election in two years, but WA Labor would have more chance if both he and Saffioti stood down.

He won't do this though, because he doesn't have an empathetic bone in him.

It will be interesting to watch how much of the promised Karnup rail station will have been completed before the next election comes around — probably just some signs showing where it will be.

Remember Mr Cook, you work for us, not the other way round. Time for Basil to really stand up.

Tony Jackson, Applecross

Job for term, not just poll

Well, well, what a surprise to the Cook Government that One Nation did so well, after all the lies and the promises we are still waiting to be honoured.

What a load of crock about all the things the Government is now saying it is going to do.

It is the Government's job to do these things anyway, not just when there is an election on. Doesn't Labor have forward planning people?

Once in office, Labor forgot how they got there. They should remember that they serve us, the people, not the other way around — and that we pay you.

We have long memories and the pigeons are coming home to roost.

Pass this on to Anthony Albanese, as he may need a reminder as well.

Terry Linley, Merredin

Are coffers now empty?

The election is over and Labor has lost one of its most safe seats.

Does this mean that Rugby Roger and Racetrack Rita will now find that they no longer have the money to build the Karnup railway station?

Brian Alderdice, Bull Creek