

Rubbish choices

WA Environment Minister Matthew Swinbourn last month approved a new landfill on a pristine Wheatbelt farm at Allawuna near York, which is set to take 250,000 tonnes of metropolitan waste a year. At the same time the East Rockingham Waste to Energy plant, built to take 300,000 tonnes of waste a year, is under administration and lies idle.

This is a shameful failure of government and a total dereliction of its duties to the WA community. Panem et circenses (bread and circuses): there are more votes in building racetracks and chasing Italian soccer games than in getting the basics like environment and waste management right.

Danielle Courtin, St Ronans

Rats win out again

We boys of the 1940s who grew up in Rivervale beneath the shroud of Swan Cement and Hardies Asbestos works gathered at weekends to fight rats at the Burswood rubbish dump. The rats won, of course. Then their nests in the rubbish and asbestos dumps were covered with sand upon which condominiums and a casino were built.

As a tribute to the victorious rats, I suppose, a large part of the rat domain now is to become Rita's Rat Race. The mechanised battles to be fought will be much noisier than ours fought with mere sticks and stones, but then we boys of the 40s didn't enjoy the profligacy of iron ore royalties.

Derrick Tomlinson, Fremantle

Control of one's destiny

More magnets needed

Excellent suggestion by Roy Stall ("Don't forget the greed", *Letters*, 9/12). I'm thinking more about our State election in a few years, and will be cutting out all the complaints I read in the papers to Roger and Rita about soooo many things. The Perth Park racetrack debacle, the white elephant in Bullsbrook, the convention centre being left as it is (ugly), and most importantly, Lara Jensen's long, ongoing campaign for the lighting of country rail crossings and rolling stock.

Oh, damn it, I've just realised I'm going to have to buy a bigger fridge!

Irene Sanderson, Kalamunda