

Premier to be commended for his dazzling set of backflips

1 More backflips than Simone Biles. That's how one Beaconsfield resident described Roger Cook's leadership to me this week. Biles is an American gymnast who has won multiple medals. Roger Cook's gold medal backflip was to scrap the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act. His silver medal; suddenly deciding last year after months of calling our health system "world class", it wasn't. And Roger's bronze? Wednesday's announcement coal mining in Collie will continue to be supported by the Government until at least 2031.

2 Cook's latest about-face, described by this newspaper as a "stunning backflip"

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confirms his Government's energy transition plan is in total disarray. To not have acted "would have meant we were switching the lights off in Western Australia" the Premier said. How diabolical is that. Just last year he told Parliament there would be no more subsidies for Collie coal after June 2026. Eight months later he's extended it out for another five years.

3 Given the podium backflips mentioned above, how could any West Australian have

confidence in Roger Cook's "rock-solid" commitment to close the state-owned Muja power stations in Collie by 2030. Answer: they can't. When the Premier of the State so consistently says one thing and then does the opposite, how can they have any confidence in him or his Government at all?

4 And what would we do? Fair question. Keep Collie running past 2029 and add significant new peak gas capacity to maintain grid stability — or in other words, to keep the lights on and power industry well into the 2030s.

5 Let's be clear: it's now plainly and painfully evident this Government cannot be trusted, and is failing

West Australians on energy, and in health and housing. But don't worry, they've delivered a rugby league team, they're building a racetrack and they've finished their film studios. What have we got to complain about!

6 Pardon the French, but on behalf of every West Australian, I'm sick of this State Government's bulldust when it comes to claims they're doing everything they can/pulling every lever/have a laser-like focus/thinking outside the box when it comes to our housing crisis. That's not what the stats show.

7 For the third consecutive quarter the number of new homes completed in WA has gone backwards and for the

second quarter in a row the number of new homes commenced has fallen. Fewer homes being built, fewer homes starting construction. Pulling every what?

8 When can we expect the tough new laws to combat the illegal tobacco and vape trade which is out of control in our suburbs? Day one of the new parliamentary year? Nope. The best the Premier can offer is "the first half of the year". What are they doing?

9 What's Naomi Osaka going to wear for her walk-on if she makes the Australian Open final?

10 Scorchers for the win? Of course. Make it title number six, lads.