

City has stood still since 60s utopia

I have lived in Perth for most of my life. I have very fond memories of a vibrant, exciting city and, within my experience, State.

I loved living here. Sadly, that is not the case any more — and for that I blame every government since the 1970s for their total lack of foresight and forward planning.

In 1960 the population of Perth was 409,000. In 1970 it was 688,000, in 1980, 922,000, in 2000, 1,407,000, in 2010, 1,722,000 and in 2025, 2,143,000. So in 65 years Perth has increased fivefold.

Can I ask how successive governments have future-proofed Perth and its environs?

Where have the main and major secondary roads been expanded to accommodate the fivefold increase in traffic?

Where has the water board upgraded the water infrastructure? Where has the electrical grid been upgraded?

Where have the many hospitals, including doctors, nurses and medical ancillary staff come from?

The questions go on and on. But, we are getting a racetrack and a rugby team.

What are the consequences of this lack of foresight?

Nowhere near enough housing for our population, not enough medical personnel, not enough safe appropriate roads resulting in far more death and carnage on our roads, a transport system that has no chance of properly assisting the people of Perth to get around.

In my opinion, Perth has been badly let down by the very people who are supposed to ensure that we live in a safe, healthy, and prosperous city.

Obviously the same must be said for the whole State.

Every decision made by the government should benefit the whole State.

Sadly, I do not believe this, or



Labour Day 1960 in Perth.

any previous, government has been this forward thinking.

Gerry Westenberg, Wembley Downs

Today's WA list of shame

Just to recap where we are

under the current Labor Government in WA:

■ In health, there is record high ambulance ramping due to bed shortages.

■ In corrective services, there is a high risk of prisoner riots due to the poor state of prison and reform facilities.

■ In education, WA has the highest student number to teacher ration in the country, especially in rural areas.

So what can the WA public expect next?

Well, don't look forward to getting cost-of-living relief — we are too far out from the next State election and the Burswood speed track is considered more important anyway.

Brian Plester, Como

Let's be like Sydney

I have recently returned from Sydney to Perth with the idea that Perth planners could learn a lot from that city.

On the Swan River there is a ferry crossing to South Perth which is very nice. Sydney has their new river-class ferries dashing all over the water, and they can be accessed with the Opal card, which, for seniors like me is capped at \$2.50 a day

max for any trip on their network. Perth has privately run ferries at expensive prices.

Sydney's new fish market is a work of art and is near many other venues of interest, such as the tramshed, Chinatown, Darling Harbour and museums. They are all connected by light rail.

Perth needs to build on the beautiful Swan River in the city and link the attractions so that people can easily access them.

They need to be year-round attractions, not racetracks that are used once a year.

The new Sydney metro line is a work of art and palatial — beautiful and fast.

The Old East Perth power station is ideal for conversion, but has sat ugly and unwanted for years.

Does WA still really mean "wait awhile"?

Richard le Serve, Gooseberry Hill

Ignoring the rewards

When the Premier actively supports strike action by workers seeking a wage of \$400,000 per year to maintain their struggling lifestyle, he calmly walks past the consequential permanent loss of \$7 million per day of lost royalties which my have been used to alleviate the appalling record of ambulance ramping and other health failures.

Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King (*News*, 13/6), is equally sanguine of the loss of some \$25 million per day of corporate tax.

Just another excuse to ramp up the taxation burden on the individual taxpayer who ultimately pays for these lost tax revenues.

Colin Agnew, Nedlands

Not on our wavelength

Federal Resources Minister Madeleine King doesn't get WA. N.J. Davidson, Yalyalup