

If you won't hear us, at least hear him

Brian Burke's article (*Opinion*, 5/9) was a factual, succinct and down-to-earth capture of the farcical head-in-the-sand attitude of Premier Roger Cook and Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti.

If they haven't read the article, no doubt at least one or more of their staffers would have given them a heads-up on this masterpiece and input from other journalists, as well as the ongoing plethora of letters from people who have expressed their concerns and opposition to all the non-essential personal fancies our "leaders" have espoused — especially the racing circuit.

So, Premier and Deputy Premier, it's about time you listened. If your arrogance and contempt for the West Australian taxpayers is put aside for one minute and your attention becomes focused on the real needs which feature every day in the press and in the media, you just might regain a bit of credibility.

Humble pie in admitting you got things wrong, mixed with a topping of deferring and reassessing the racetrack, etc., and concentrating on the real needs in our community could go a long way towards appeasing the vast majority of the disgruntled voting public.

D.J. Hicks, Woodvale

If Burke's saying it . . .

It has to be recognised for what it is when one the ALP's most experienced, and dare say its wisest, ex-politicians calls out Cook and Saffioti for having a tin ear. Brian Burke's straightforward and commonsense call-out of the Premier and his deputy as being arrogant and having a tin ear to the public is spot on.

Any sensible and responsible politician being given sound advice should listen, but I doubt the current two incumbent leaders will.

I can guess the comments coming from Harvest Terrace.

Kevin Bown, Hocking

. . . Labor should listen

Maybe Premier Roger Cook and his deputy Rita Saffioti might want to heed the words of

The West Australian Racetrack plan could crash



Burke's column yesterday

wisdom offered by one of their own, Brian Burke.

As a committed political guru with a wealth of Labor Party knowledge and proved strategic government experience, when Burke publicly expresses concern about the current State Government's inability to listen to its constituents' concerns, then maybe it's time to take notice.

Look at what happened to other empires over history when they relied too heavily on "bread and circuses".

Sandy Donaldson, Dowerin

Little hope they'll act

Could Brian Burke's opinion column be any more accurate? And from a Labor stalwart, too.

Burke's political nous is among the best, and the fact that he tears Rita Saffioti's reputation apart, bit by bit, shows no fear of reprisal.

But his carefully crafted questions about the racetrack expose the Cook/Saffioti Government as deaf to electors and deeply embedded in their own political stunts.

But will they listen? Very unlikely.

David Airey, Claremont

Justified criticism

Whilst I normally dislike personal attacks on politicians, I found Brian Burke's withering assessment of our State Treasurer to be justified in understanding the absurd commitment to the Burswood racetrack.

It is just the latest in a series of projects, driven by vanity and self-interest, that are totally disconnected from community need and public opinion.

Let's hope that there are some level heads somewhere in State Cabinet who can put this whole sorry saga to bed.

Tony Dean, Carlisle

Fingers crossed he's right

How refreshing to read Brian Burke's article regarding the racetrack plan.

I hope that he's correct and that this ridiculous project doesn't go ahead. To date I haven't met anyone who thinks its a good idea.

The general public — voters — are more concerned with the cost of living, health and housing to warrant a madcap scheme like this.

May sensibility eventually prevail and this current Government listen to what people really need and want.

Many thanks, Brian, your regular articles are very enlightening.

B. Shelbourne, Yokine

I'm leaving the party

The wasteful disregard Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti show to West Australians is disgusting.

Many millions of dollars have been handed out for race tracks, Metronet, etc., at the cost of our "world class" health system.

I am sick of the pompous way these two act like saviours, blatantly handing out millions for their favourite causes at the cost of others.

I have been a Labor voter all my life, but not any more.

It's been great to hear some of Basil Zempilas' input, trying to rein in some of these wasteful vote-buying tactics.

If the West Australian Parliament keeps bumbling along as it is now, I'm sure the results at our next election will be rather difficult to the last one.

Stephen James White, Stoneville

No one to do the caring

So, the Federal Government is releasing 20,000 aged-care packages. Wonderful.

Where does it think it's getting the staff from to care for all these older people in their homes? They just aren't available.

Deirdre McGorry, Greenmount