

Cook's dismissive attitude to PCH lead levels typical of Labor

1 "This is well and truly in the rear-view mirror," Premier Roger Cook said this time last week. Was he talking about his dismissive leadership, the Government's excessive, wasteful spending, or perhaps he had finally come to his senses over the tone-deaf racetrack at Burswood? Sadly, doughnuts on all of the above. No, what the Premier was describing as being in the "rear-view mirror" was the small matter of lead in the water at Perth Children's Hospital.

2 That would be fine if it was behind us — but it wasn't and isn't. How utterly embarrassing for our State leader to be caught out so

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blatantly further breaking the trust of West Australians. On the very day he told the public there was nothing to worry about — last Friday — three more instances of lead in the water at PCH were detected.

3 That makes it 16 times there has been an excessive amount of lead recorded at PCH since January 2023. The Government's response? Not to come clean but to resume its deflect, deny and dismiss approach. Remember, they didn't offer up this information,

the public had to read about it. But still there is no protocol in place to inform the public if it happens again.

4 Let me remind everyone what we are talking about here. Not noise from V8 engines, but toxic metal in the water at our children's hospital. In the words of the National Health and Medical Research Council, lead consumption can severely affect the central nervous system with young children and babies the most susceptible.

5 And still the Government don't think patients, their parents or staff have a right to know when levels get beyond the recommended safety benchmark.

6 Why the constant secrecy? Why don't they ever listen or accept responsibility? Do I need to remind about record ambulance ramping, shocking hospital maintenance, etc? Day after day West Australians are losing confidence in this Government. Their priorities are wrong and their attitude is offensive.

7 The racetrack at Burswood is the very embodiment of that approach. But the cracks are beginning to appear. This week the Premier very deliberately threw responsibility for its go-ahead back on to Rita Saffioti. The Premier said Rita "is undertaking the process for developing the business case.

That will give us a line of sight in terms of the costs. We need to understand what they are first".

8 In other words: "We've got no idea what it's going to cost and if the Treasurer can't keep it to below \$217.5 million, we can pull the pin — and it will be on Rita." Interesting play, Premier.

9 If anyone is in any doubt about how unpopular the racetrack actually is, read the letters to the editor any day of the week.

10 Or just ask Patrick Gorman, Federal member for Perth

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