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HARRY'S VIEW



accusations that it is un-Australian and depriving the Australian people. It seems to me that the only ones who will be deprived are those that never earned the right to be there.

On the contrary, I believe it is the current situation that is depriving the Australian people of their democratic rights. We have had to put up with senators that the majority of us never voted for, and who hold the country to ransom because we have had hung parliaments and they have the balance of power. We then get ridiculous situations such as when two regional politicians decide what time clubs and pubs should close in the larger towns and cities because the government has had to do a deal with them to get their way. It has less to do with what is good for the general public and more to do with politicians stitching up a deal to get their own

way.

Ricky Muir is a classic example of the farcical situation we are in, winning only 0.5% of primary votes, or 17,222 people. He only got in because of deals done with 23 other minor parties and individuals to gather preferences. This isn't democracy at work, it's lunacy. The people who represent us in parliament should be the ones who received the majority of our votes – surely that is democracy at work? Perhaps then the politician can concentrate more on what is good for the people and less on what is good for them.

■ **Malcolm Wells**
Pacific Heights

Grazing and nature refuges co-exist

I REFER to concerns over the push to end grazing leases within national parks Deb Frecklington.

I agree with The Member for Nanango. Australians should be concerned that an agreement made between the government of the day and graziers to care for nature refuges, and national parks can be so easily disposed of, with no right of appeal.

This has nothing to do with what government is in power because the LNP has a disgraceful reputation when it comes to looking after and even understanding the environment and preventing the right to be heard.

Bimble Box nature refuge was and still is providing the ongoing research and the information into combining nature reserves, national parks and

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can't charge for fuel

development, but who, as I understand it, has been (until recently) shunned in requests to meet with the developer.

As I have already noted the project is on the market.

With or without a casino licence it will probably remain so until the developer can find investors who will take on the construction risk.

It's worth noting too, that it's not units or property that is being sold, its part or all of the project. From where I sit, the probability that "investors" will stump up for this is very low. First, I am told that the original cost of \$650 million may (allegedly) have blown out to as much as \$2 billion.

A \$650 million project would need a return of around \$100 million per annum to make it worth looking at. A \$2 billion project would need a return of \$300 million. These are very big numbers set against an incredibly risky business plan. As a potential investor, I'm struggling to get there.

So here I am, demonstrably wedded to the fortunes of our region. I stuck my neck out saying that Kerry Packer would close the meatworks, if unions did not stop their rolling strikes. They did not, and unions blamed me when the meatworks closed. I set up a fee for service financial planning business and was told that competing financial planners were considering "sending a posse" round to deal with me. Most of those people are now retired, failed in business or left the region. I'm still here, proudly servicing clients and growing our business.

I predicted that Rockhampton Regional Development Limited would fail if Council funding was stopped. The board of RRDL was cross and asked me to step down. RRDL is now gone, and so is the Mayor that I took to task. Unions bagged the sale of QR and in a disgusting show of ignorance, publicly attacked Robert Schwarten for something he was trying to stop (and in case you

didn't already know, I am no great leftie). I doubled clients' money on that investment. I said that we should have a series of concerts using our international airport and beautiful park near the barrage, possibly starting with Shania Twain.

A fellow director, educated and female, suggested I was only interested in Shania's curves and leopard skin jumpsuit. Actually the reason why I mentioned Shania was she not only is a big name, her lyrics suggest she has women's welfare rights at her heart.

Back to Keppel. I genuinely would like to see the resort built, but as with my experience with my late father-in-law, part of maturity is recognising the facts before you. I am sorry that OKOF and its supporters do not like my low capital, high throughput, community controlled alternative. I guess we need to respect their faith. It can after all, move mountains.

Here though, I see no spades.

TEXTS TO THE EDITOR

SMS the Editor on 0428 634 025 with the word **ROCK** and a space in front of your message.

■ **FAFF, EMU PARK.** re shade over Keppel Kraken. Why not relocate the industrial shed from Main Beach Emu Park to Main Beach Yeppoon? 2 problems solved! Careful what you wish for ... Lol

■ **VAL.RKY.** Govt is ruining Aust. in a lot of ways but protecting the rich is a bad mistake. Tax all, what are they afraid of.

■ **JM, NTH ROCKY.** Can we please have a report on the recent under 20 Australian basketball? Local Briana Bailey topped 3 point scoring. *Editor's note: We're aware of the game and we will be running an article.*

■ **RINGER.** Sometimes just sometimes some services have to run at a loss to provide a service to the community. Such is the case of the reduced payment to the Eungella store. These type of outlets are the life blood of small communities and provide a valuable service to these towns.

■ **COL.RKX.** Is the terror alert scare put in place to justify the defence spending. Nothing would surprise, with this lot.

■ **ANON.** If teachers took a well deserved payout their profession could afford to implement proposed reform.

■ **CC.** why doesn't Cameron Dick include Barma Forest and a few other damaging mozzie borne viruses that are also in the Rockhampton area in the dengue and zika screening? I recall the Qld public had a chance to elect a competent doctor and lacked the self preservatory sense to. The current minister relies on advice that isn't able to be exact regarding not only zika. Shame about that.

■ **HOOKY, RTON.** Hey Manly Mick & Jack Lewis. I see Manly want to appoint a Proctologist to coach the u/18's, Hopoate!!!

■ **RESIDENT, GRACEMERE.** Who was doing a wheel stand on their motor bike down bongary road. Near accident.

■ **RM ST LAWRENCE.** Shame on

Channel 7 (and the other's no doubt) for repeatedly replaying the arrest of that man on Valentines Day. Had he obeyed police directions he'd not have been arrested. If the "punches" were so "violent", why did he not display bruising, lacerations etc.? Only himself to blame, thumbs up to the police!!

■ **NJW.** So, Kevin Andrews thinks the Australian navy should sail along the 12 nm limit around the Chinese base for what? He needs to understand that our military is a defence force, not some gang that we send around the world provoking trouble!

■ **JULIE DAVIES.** In response G Townsend's letter that American College of Pediatricians saying Gardasil HPV vaccine is toxic, people should be aware this organisation is not the credible American Academy of Pediatrics



Reader CC would like to see other mozzie borne viruses screened in the area.

cians which has 60,000 members and publishes peer-reviewed studies of millions of patients. ACP does have a small number of pediatrician members but their pronouncements are based on anecdotal evidence, not properly designed large studies and has more to do with their republican politics and agenda than evidence. It's easy to confuse the two organisations because of the similar initials. But they are worlds apart with regard to credibility.

■ **DOUG MILNER.** Re RINGER ToE 26/2. Too rite mate, it is illegal but if me or mine was being attacked/bitten/crushed I would kill the bloody thing also no matter how many bleeding hearts were watching. I presume you get the picture.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull reacts as he listens to a speech during the Teal Ribbon Day breakfast at Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday. Teal Ribbon Day raises awareness for ovarian cancer.

PHOTO: LUKAS COCH