

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

Show us the nation building money



MY SAY
FRAZER PEARCE
EDITOR

CAN anyone else see a problem with these figures? Brisbane 3238, Gold Coast 3720, Toowoomba 838, Sunshine Coast 2994, Livingstone 270, Rockhampton 243, Gladstone 137, Mackay 245 and Central Highlands 11; the numbers of new houses built in 2015-2016 tell the story of where the growth is and where investment is going. No wonder the CQ building industry is struggling and tradesmen have been forced to head south to survive. The state and federal governments have a huge issue to deal with as they continue to pour money where the votes are. Since the launch of our Fair Go For the Regions campaign (and the rise of One Nation), there has been a refocus on the regions, but so far it is pretty well a whole lot of talk that has yet to deliver anything of real substance. Does anyone remember the Queensland plan? That all sounded great too but never converted to one cent of anything. We need investment into industry to deliver long term jobs and not just the sugar hits that highway and bridge upgrades bring us. When the Prime Minister said this week he would be happy to fund the \$2 billion expansion of the Snowy Mountains hydro scheme, I thought, what about us? He said the feasibility work would be completed by the end of the year, with work to begin next year with up to 500 jobs created. But what about the feasibility study for Doblo's dam, a \$1 billion Rockhampton ring road, \$2 million to sink the Tobruk? That's right, Senator Canavan said they didn't have the money for it.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help save animals from death sentence

RESCUE for Rescues is a new organisation supplying short term (up to 14 days) foster care to save animals on death row in pounds. R.F.R is focusing on the Rockhampton area due to the high numbers of animals in desperate need of saving. Quite often these animals only have moments to spare by the time it is brought to our attention. For many of these animals foster based rescues are their only hope so it is critical that there are carers readily available. R.F.R are seeking dedicated animal lovers. Carers are only asked to care for a maximum of 14 days while transportation into permanent care is arranged. All vet care is covered and all that we ask of carers is to provide love, food, shelter and basic care. It is important to

understand the importance of keeping these animals contained, meaning the secure fencing for dogs and cats to be strictly indoors. Another thing we look for in potential carers is availability to transport animals short distances to pickup/drop off points, to vet appointments etc. Rescue for Rescue provides 24/7 support to all of it's carers. R.F.R thanks all new foster carers who have joined us in the last seven days, with your support we have been able to supply carers to save two dogs and 12 cats and kittens in two days alone. Rockhampton pound's next kill days are March 21 and 24 so we are in dyer need of carers to join our team ASAP. If you can't foster but would like to help, local donations of food or cash



Rescue for Rescue saves animals on death row and needs your help PHOTO:CONTRIBUTED

can be left at 1Jim Goldston Ave, Norman Gardens. To find out more about fostering, donating or to sponsor Rescue for Rescue please contact me on 5485 0028 or Chloe 0434 700 796 — Renee Stiles Pomona

Why not use gas for baseload power?

I UNDERSTAND that the energy problem we are trying to solve in Queensland is that our coal fired power plants are reaching the end of their reliable life. While we are investing in renewables, this is a transition that cannot happen overnight and therefore we need a medium term fossil fuel investment to supply reliable baseload power. I do not understand why the Resources Minister, Matt Canavan, is saying that he wants to build a new coal fired plant. I understand that compared to an ultra-

We need a medium term fossil fuel investment

efficient new coal power station that gas is at least cost comparable. The advantage of gas is that it can be ramped up and down more easily to adjust to demand, an advantage in a mixed energy model. While we have lots of coal in Australia, we also have lots of gas (when we are not selling it all overseas.) I am not asking this question on environmental grounds as there are conflicting theories about

gas vs coal. Some say that when methane losses are factored in that gas can be just as bad. I would however like the minister's explanation as to why gas appears to have been ruled out when it seems to be a more flexible power source compared with coal. — Robert Forsythe Glenlee
Mayors comments disregard research HOW arrogant is our mayor, Margaret Strelow, saying that 'No coal is the end of civilization'? Is she disregarding 40 years of scientific research into our climate, which says fossil fuels are a big factor

that is warming our planet? Has she been reading up on new renewable technologies? Has she heard about the last three bleaching events on the Great Barrier Reef, due mainly to rising sea temperatures caused by global warming? Has she noticed how hot it has been this year? Would she like to stand at the coal face or port and breath the toxic dust into her lungs? I think both she and the editor have the blinkers on. Perhaps when she comes back they could take a trip to the Reef up north. — David McRae Rockhampton

Muslims should obey our customs WHY cant Muslims see we are not being racist? We just want to live the way we were brought up. The same as they want to live in Australia, living the way they were brought up overseas. Now who should try a change their ways? This is Australia, should the ones born here over generations change, or should Muslims tone down their ways to be Australian? When they got their Australian Citizenship they say they will obey Australian laws/customs and way of life. Is that being racist? — G.J.Smyth Rockhampton

START YOUR WEEK BY CATCHING UP WITH HAIDEE JENKINS' WORLD IN DAYS

Misplaced empathy sows



THE FRENCH LESSON
DAVID FRENCH

REGULAR readers of this column will recall my concerns around a western culture that has become dominated by feelings. Like frogs in boiling water, people go to work, do their shopping and pick up the kids from school without realising that we are in the midst of a revolution. It's a revolution

comprising alternative facts, populist politics, and most of all a triumph of feelings over fact. It is a complete and in some ways knowingly orchestrated overturning of many of the learnings of the enlightenment, and indeed western culture. If we're not careful it will lead to war. At the heart of the upheaval lies a range of theoretical left wing "insights" that, like communism, are misguided at best. They are tools of a power play for the far left to regain ground, lost after the

Careers are built explaining and displaying "emotional intelligence". Do the proponents really understand what empathy is?

embarrassing fall of the Berlin Wall. The advent of Facebook and other social medial

makes the tools as effective as they are dangerous. Consider the ubiquitous rise of empathy as a supreme sign of superior interpersonal skills. From management journals to Women's Day, the word is used everywhere. Careers are built explaining and displaying "emotional intelligence". Do the proponents really understand what empathy is? Where does the left's criticism of the Iraqi war leave the millions of Muslims murdered by Saddam Hussein's

Ba'athists? And at what point does empathy give way to self-indulgent wallowing in the problems of others. When do we put away the "do not disturb" sign and undertake practical measures to assist people going through tough times? When do we ask people to take control of their feelings, recognise them for what they are, and deal with them appropriately? "Oh God!", "Heresy!" the left will say. But what if I told you I am not unfamiliar with depression, and in the past an almost debilitating fear