

Housing supply clogged in system

Assistant Minister for Cities Angus Taylor correctly calls for improvements to the planning system ("More homes needed to meet growth demand", 5/1) to lift Sydney's housing supply to the 40,000 needed each year.

The highest number of new homes in the past 12 months is 31,000, so something major is required to increase supply by 30 per cent.

Currently only 58 per cent of homes approved become completed buildings because councils add so many conditions, so a special focus must occur on this issue.

We also need to question excessive design requirements like having 70 per cent of an apartment getting sun on the living room floor in midwinter. No other Australian city requires this.

Sydney also has very restrictive zoning rules that prohibit apartments in some town centres and in old industrial areas where changes of uses are needed. The Greater Sydney Commission must look at simplifying the planning system if we are going to get housing supply where it needs to be and that will help with housing affordability.

Chris Johnson
CEO Urban Taskforce

Belting the pensioners is just a political quick fix

Third, let's do away with the special Comcare for politicians.

If police and emergency service workers, and probably all other workers too, can be hung out to dry when injured at work, then why do politicians have a separate workers' compensation plan?

Finally, why do we need so many politicians?

Leave the pensioners alone. I'd bet that most of them are not rich, they just made good decisions during their working life and are now being punished both by low interest rates and greedy politicians looking for a quick fix.

Alexandra Chisholm ACT

Safety campaigns a key water safety ingredient

R. Jackson is correct in asserting that parents should be responsible for children's safety around water ("Let parents enforce pool safety for their own kids", Letters, 5/1).

But the letter writer is wrong in claiming that signage and safety campaigns are impotent. How would people know where they could park and what the legal speed limit is without signage? That some people choose to ignore the message cannot be averted.

The statistics for alcohol-related road accidents of today compared to 25 years ago demonstrate that those safety campaigns have had an impact

horse; 7. Have a beer gut; 8. Work in the building industry; 9. Pass wind with indiscretion; 10. Whistle at sheilas; 11. eat a meat pie every day; and 12. Don't beat around the bush.

Gary Frances Bexley

Albo's vested interest in attacking the Greens

The Greens are the strongest rival to Mr Albanese's fairly comfortable hold on the seat of Grayndler. He has a vested interest in criticising the Greens, and has been spreading misinformation about our party for years ("Ratbag rhetoric of Green haters", 4/1).

For example, in his latest attack he tries to make out that Greens NSW and its prominent figures are not concerned about environmental protection. That is simply dishonest.

In the 2016 federal election, in an effort to drive voters back to Labor, Mr Albanese ran hard promoting a scare campaign that there was a Greens-Liberal preference deal. It was fake news. The Greens preferenced Labor ahead of the Coalition in every marginal seat across the nation.

Senator Lee Rhiannon Surry Hills

Efficient public transport will solve traffic gridlock

Mr Albanese's government are only