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OPTIONS KEPT OPEN

IT seems I have touched Bill Johnston's sensitive spot, now that he asks that I no longer play politics with him. (MLA happy to help, *Canning Times*, May 5)

To me, it seems strange that he considers it inappropriate for residents to become involved in local issues, because I thought that was all part of democracy at work.

We all know that politics is a game of power, and if you do not question your local representatives, and hold them to account, then that old adage that power tends to corrupt may very well come to fruition.

Personally, I would encourage every member of our local community to become politically involved, no matter what their persuasion.

I am proud to say that our little branch has had the privilege, on more than one occasion, of seeing a law changed or added as a direct result of our activity in the political process.

Mr Johnston may well be saying "trust me, I'm a politician", but I will still keep my options open, thank you very much.

**Tony York,
Ferndale.**

DECISION APPLAUDED

I APPLAUD the City of Canning for its decision to withdraw from the South Metropolitan Regional Council.

This demonstrates clearly that it is trying to secure a positive outcome for ratepayers. Years of being a part of the SMRC has not made a difference: residents were suffering then and they are suffering now.

Having a "voice" on the SMRC evidently isn't working.

If what you are doing isn't working, you really ought to try something else.

It is naïve to think that all of a sudden doing the same old thing you've done for years is going to have a different outcome under the same conditions. Nobody can claim that the SMRC hasn't been given a fair chance to address the issues.

Indeed, it has been given more than a fair chance. It is time that we stopped throwing good money after bad.

I would prefer councillors spend their time – for which we pay them – doing stuff that actually yields results, instead of doing stuff that so far has been fruitless and, therefore, is likely to continue to be fruitless.

Withdrawing from the SMRC frees our councillors to pursue other approaches to end ratepayers' suffering.

**Stephen Bettermann,
Canning Vale.**

BIBLICAL ANALOGY

I'M surprised to see Caroline Dunsire in her May 5 edition letter use the term "long-suffering residents" when she continually comes across as supporting the SMRC and the regional resource recovery centre.

Maybe the councillors she appears to show so much disdain for – who by the way genuinely care for the residents copping the recovery centre's noxious odour – felt they needed to keep an eye on the centre and the goings on behind it.

The residents exposed to these continual emissions certainly have no faith whatsoever in this facility or its management.

Interestingly enough, Caroline Dunsire mentions the elections in October.

Perhaps Ms Dunsire has already started up her own campaign with attempts to sound sympathetic to the residents copping the odour.

In regards to using Biblical stories, how about David and Goliath?

David being the residents exposed to the disgusting noxious emissions and Goliath being those supporting the regional resource recovery centre.

**Mandy Clarke,
Leeming.**

IDEA IS LUDICROUS

EDDY Wajon's suggestion that the volume of traffic that exists on Leach Highway and South Street could be reduced by putting the occupants of vehicles on buses is ludicrous in the extreme (Don't shift blame, *Canning Times*, May 12).

What about the large trucks; do we put them on buses too?

For Dr Wajon to be one of the leaders of this campaign is bad enough; to also take the moral high ground on behalf of "his" wildlife and to criticise ordinary people who are just trying to save their families and friends from death, injury and lung disease by opposing him is worse.

**Jim Reddyhough,
Willetton.**

HONEY OF A SOLUTION

WE had a swarm of bees make a home under our patio.

We didn't want to call a pest exterminator because bees have a very important job to do, so we placed a simple free advertisement in a no-charge newspaper and the phone did not stop ringing.

A competent person picked them up in the evening and in return gave us a jar of honey.

So help look after our environment and save our bees.

**Charles Buckenara,
Ocean Reef.**