

Cyclist fines a low priority

BEP Torkington (Opinion, July 21), you are a genius. How simple and easy it would be to implement a system of fines for riders using roads when there is a bikeway as an option.

I'd say 2000 or maybe 3000 police could be put to good use protecting impatient drivers from this scourge. Your house might be robbed while police are conducting this service.

But I'm sure that is a small price to pay for a quicker trip home.

I also think we ought to take it a little further and fine cars that are travelling on Coronation Drive, when they could be using Milton Rd. And cars using Kingsford Smith Drive that are not going to the airport could be rerouted to clear the way for late travellers.

Ed Falconer, Indooroopilly

Let Paul pick

NOW that the PM has set a date for the Federal Election, let's forget about any Galaxy polls or Laurie Oaks commentary.

Instead let's get Paul the octopus of the soccer World Cup fame Down Under to help us pick the winner, before he ends up as a "Special of the Day" in some German restaurant.

Sarosh Mehta, St Lucia

STREET POLL

Have you made up your mind about your vote in the upcoming federal election?

Poll conducted at: The Barracks, Petrie Tce
Wednesday, July 21,
at 11am.



I don't really care about politics, but I usually try and vote for the underdogs. So Greens it is.

Melissa Kyle, Windsor



I'll decide after watching the debate, but I usually vote for the same party.

Sandra Currie, Cherside



Yes, I always vote for the same party. I'll definitely watch the debate, though.

Ronald Abala, Clayfield



Not yet, but I'm a Labor supporter, so will probably stick with them.

Brock Braines, Ashgrove

Let's explain voting system

I WONDER how many other people are unsure of the way our preferential voting system works.

For many years, elections often presented me with a dilemma.

Would I vote for my preferred party, or would I vote for one of the major parties to ensure my vote wasn't wasted?

A neighbour clarified for me that if my first preference is a minor party, a second preference counts as a full vote. Dilemma solved.

In recent weeks, I have commented on this to 12 or so friends, and only two were clear about this aspect of our system.

Each of the others expressed surprise that if the party they vote for is not a major party their second preference vote goes at full value to the next candidate.

Interesting to contemplate how many people might vote differently if they appreciated this crucial aspect of our voting system.

Jennie Elston, Ashgrove

Bikes better for our health and the roads

RE: Bep Torkington, (Opinion July 21).

If cyclists are a hazard on the road what does that make cars?

Princess Diana didn't die in a bicycle accident.

Over 1000 people in Australia each year don't die in bicycle accidents.

Bicycles don't cause the haze of pollution hanging over our city or clog the roads. Soldiers and seabirds don't die to secure bicycle fuel resources.

Cars are deadly. Viva la bicycle!

James Gently, Toowong

Taxpayers paying for giveaways

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THE Government has been making available household energy reduction devices at a discount to the users, or as "giveaways" or with subsidies and rebates.

But the Government pays the full price of these appliances and it gets its money from us.

The best the Government may be getting is a huge bulk discount which I doubt accounts for the discount to us, especially the "giveaways".

We are all paying the full cost off these appliances, so "being green" is not easy - it is very expensive.

The notion that it is easy and cheap is a ruse.

The environmentalists have been cheerfully supporting the ruse. Environmentalists believe we should be paying dearly to use energy.

The "clean energy" industry is being created at everybody else's unnecessary expense, so it is an economic disadvantage, not a benefit, to society as a whole.

Allan Moorhead, Auchenflower

HAVE YOUR SAY

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