

Uplifted by balloon ban

WE should welcome the State Government's move to ban helium balloons at its events. They litter waterways and choke sea turtles, birds and other threatened wildlife. We wouldn't release hundreds of plastic bags at big events, so why do we release balloons year after year?

Ingrid Neilson, Manly

No argument with choice

I FOUND Valma Harrison's letter (C-M, Aug 2) rather ironic. She said Kevin Rudd should have taken a bed in the public hospital system if it's working so well. I'm sure many people (including me) would have been upset if he had taken a bed in the public system when he can afford to go private. I guess it's a case of damned if you do and damned if you don't.

Lynne Stringer, Camp Hill

Work for benefit

THE Labor Party announcement of an increase in Family Tax Benefit A to encourage students to remain at school is another example of passive welfare.

Mere attendance at school does not equate to learning. To be eligible for support, students should be required to demonstrate an effort to learn: homework and class work completed, assignments submitted.

Adrienne Forrestal, Anstead

Halt mining on island

LET'S not trash the rest of North Stradbroke Island over the next 17 years and then declare it a national park. It will take hundreds of years before the land will recover to its original quality. Let's preserve this jewel and not renew the mining leases.

Michael Dawson, Point Lookout

C.M. 3-8-10

Monorail best suited to Coast

YOU report that Premier Anna Bligh has turned the first sod on the Gold Coast's \$1 billion rapid transit project (C-M, Aug 2).

The light rail system seems ludicrous to me. The last thing the narrow north-south transport corridor needs is a lane dedicated to light rail. A far superior idea would be a monorail zooming way over the heads of everyone and the congested road system. The construction of a monorail using pylons could take place with little disruption to traffic. Instead, the construction of a light rail system will disrupt Gold Coast traffic in a major way for many years.

Further, the Gold Coast could be a pioneer in offering free public transport. If we are serious about saving our environment, we must offer an incentive to get people out of cars. It's amazing how people will use something if it is free, especially when they know their taxes/rates are paying for it.

Gary Shaw, Surfers Paradise

Letters

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