

water Minister Tanya Plibersek's Bill is passed.

In reality, it will reduce food and fibre production, therefore increasing the cost at the supermarket. Instead of clean, green Australian food we will import more, without knowing the conditions under which it has been grown.

We will continue to damage the Murray River, which the Basin Plan is supposed to protect, because for the Canberra and city-based elites it is "out of sight out of mind". They don't see the damage. They only see their virtue-signalling environmental ideologies.

We will also continue increasing flood risk, with a future of more damage like we saw last

year, as more water is stored in upstream dams, thus reducing flood mitigation efforts.

This is all so unnecessary. There are sensible, viable options developed by the communities who live and breathe the Basin and its riverine environments; those who, more than anyone, want it protected.

But our Canberrans and city-elites know better. They'll tell us how it should be done. And if they get their way, which is going to happen unless crossbench senators are able to stop it, our nation will be the poorer for it.

Shelley Scoullar,
Speak Up Campaign
chairwoman

Late scientist had crucial fire advice

As a mark of respect to Professor Tolhurst ("Tributes for hailed scientist", TWT, Oct 11), shortly after the Black Saturday fires, he addressed a public meeting near my home and stated: "Firefighting equip-

ment, even aeroplanes dropping water, can suppress a fire only when its energy output is 3500-4000 kilowatts per metre ... At its peak this fire would reach some 38 times that intensity, 150,000 kilowatts per metre."

He said more than 90 per cent of the damage and life loss occurred in really big fires so "we need to plan, research and design for really big fires, not the other 99 per cent".

Minutes before his death, Prof Tolhurst told another public meeting, at Mallacoota, that "if appropriate fuel reduction had been applied prior to the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires, Mallacoota would not have burned".

Rest in peace, Professor.

Tim Malseed,
Firestick Estate Inc.
president

Wodonga train a Third World mess

Elderly people are taking their own chair to ride on the Wo-

donga to Melbourne trains. This is below OK and equal to the Third World, and governments should be ashamed and shamed for how regional people are treated around transport. The issues around the Melbourne-Wodonga line have been a debacle for years.

Will passengers sit on the train roof India-style next? The train route is vital for many and needs to be fixed and have seats for all.

Does the city care? Or city MPs as well? I think not.

If trains were at the right standard so much about the North East would flourish for lifestyles and business and tourism.

Take a look at how Mildura once had the Vineland, a great train journey closed down by politicians with no vision or regard for a region's needs.

The Wodonga to Melbourne train needs a name and to be a great journey to a stunning region. Maybe the "Bush-ranger" for a name.

Stuart Davie,
Corowa, NSW

Destocking was due, El Nino or not

While I agree with the gist of your editorial ("Let's have clarity on El Nino", TWT, Oct 11) I also take umbrage with the BOM's delayed El Nino call, but, for whatever reason, this has always been their way.

The decision on when to hold and when to sell livestock has to come from a management assessment of regional conditions.

And after three years of above-average seasons, the devastating floods of La Niña notwithstanding, numbers have built up and a lightening off had to come at some stage.

The international calls of a pending El Nino and positive IOD weather patterns were in the news at the same time as consumers' complaints of paying through the nose for red meat.

Maybe that was the time to start lightening off, eh?

John Mosig,
Kew

box ("Wagga's monster yarding falls flat", Oct 12). More jobs for Australia.

Alf

For those of us who live by the actual weather, the BOM forecasts in excess of a week are an absolute joke ("Climate data review as farmers fume over El Nino forecast", Oct 12). The only people who think they are great are those from urban areas who do not rely on weather for income.

Alan

I'm so glad he got to live the rest of his days free of such weight, but above all loved ("World famous sheep with 35kg fleece dies", Oct 11).

Lisa

Responsibility for looking after children is parents not taxpayers ("Childcare desert: Burden falls on women in rural Australia", Oct 13). Government could support by enabling income-splitting, not taking over child raising.

Meg

Great positive story. Sam is very passionate about the wool industry ("The wool broker from the suburbs", Oct 13).

You'd cry too...

RIVE

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