



Long-term lithium vision needed

I was very frustrated after reading comments from Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA chief executive Chris Rodwell and his "it's just too hard attitude" about promoting lithium production to final products in WA (*Business*, 2/11).

In the 1970s I was a 17-year-old working at BHP in Kwinana and watching pig iron leave from one jetty and steel being returned to a jetty 200m away. The steel was produced in Japan.

I then ended up in the Pilbara watching billions of tonnes of iron ore being shipped overseas. The countries it was destined for were becoming world economic powerhouses.

Why? Apparently because we did not have the expertise to carry on the refining process here and develop secondary industries in Australia.

We now have a second chance with the lithium boom. We are lucky enough to have one of the Earth's largest deposits of a mineral that is going to change the world.

But we have people in power who apparently only have eyes for the short-term dollar.

How hard can it be to make batteries? There is a huge international demand for them. Lithium is essential to their production.

How hard can it be to stop sending our raw materials overseas to make billionaire fat cats there?

We have a chance to provide industry, jobs and prosperity. All that is needed is some long-term vision.

Chris Woods, Rockingham

From mineral to product

Why is a developed nation such as Australia exporting its raw materials?

That is what Russia, Arab sheikhs and other totalitarian states are doing.

But now there appears to be a



Chris Rodwell

change of vision. Mineral Resources is cutting its Australian lithium ore exports, converting the mineral to higher-grade products. At last! **Antero Jarvinen, Pernio, Finland**

Renewables are on track

Bernie Masters (*Letters*, 29/10) says we need to divert money from renewables subsidies. That's true. They are needing them less anyway because of rapidly declining costs.

But we need to stop subsidies to fossil fuels, too.

The problems with renewables are fast disappearing. Intermittent output has been countered by batteries — which is great news for our mineral-rich State — and pumped-hydro is possible at 22,000 sites around the country.

Pumped-hydro has just been given the go ahead in Kidston in Queensland, and will provide 250MW of emission-free power. Baby steps, yes, but part of the more distributed energy profile we are seeking.

Industrial-scale application is shaping well in South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

One shining example is Sanjeev Gupta, who bought the Whyalla steelworks out of administration last year. His \$1 billion investment in renewables includes solar, battery, waste gas co-generation, and

pumped-hydro. Mr Gupta said that renewables offered the best future for energy-intensive industries.

He also thinks that subsidies are not the way to go, but says government should be helping industry by providing better access to capital, thus fast-tracking the new low-carbon economy we need to embrace.

It would be great if WA could move a little faster in this direction.

We have everything we need to become a renewable energy hub for our region.

Joyce Erceg, Oakford

Just deserts for bankers

I was wondering if any of the bank senior managers will face criminal charges after the royal commission's findings and recommendations have been released. If someone walks into your home and steals from your wallet, the police would become involved.

Does having a white collar and a degree in business computing make any difference? Shouldn't these criminals get the same treatment? Just because they are well-educated shouldn't make them immune to the law.

Perry Jasper, Doubleview

Death of accountability

Should we feel sorry for the ANZ because of a 5 per cent fall in its profit?

I don't think so.

Should we approve of its \$6.5 billion profit at the expense of so many trusted customers?

Again, I don't think so.

Australians have had enough of corporate greed.

It is simply not acceptable for chief executives and other chiefs across corporate Australia to say sorry after the fact. Corporate accountability is dead. Delete the term from the dictionary.

Deb Gibson, Hamilton Hill