

they must apply to all. Air polices, state and local, and senior bureaucrats should have their pay rises capped at 2.5 per cent, too.

Ralph Burge of Brisbane

God bless the late Joh Bjelke-Petersen. He stuffed QR but he didn't sell it.

P.A. Hill of Glendale

Premier Anna Bligh has cut the number of government departments. Why doesn't she cut the number of ministers? There would be no job losses, because they'll still be MPs and earning a wage. And there would be more savings if the political flunkies in ministers' offices also went.

Vince

The best bet would be to abolish the State Government, get rid of the state public service, and rely on the Federal Government working directly with local councils. It would save billions.

Ron from Albany Creek

In the name of accountability, too many public sector employees are unproductively shuffling paper. There are ways of measuring accountability other than filling out forms that are then consigned to a dusty shelf. After sorting out this problem, the Government should cut its number of spin doctors. Then bring polities' super into line with industry standards.

Eric Thorne of Ormiston

Not all of us public servants who travel interstate go away on taxpayer-funded "holidays". Quite the opposite. The few thousand dollars I spent last year going interstate saved about \$100,000, because the information I got from the NSW and Victorian governments meant I did not have to start some big projects from scratch. By the way, a return airfare to Melbourne is less than \$200. Try flying to Mount Isa or Gladstone for that.

Simon of Toowong

Then premier Jeff Kennett cut Victorian public service numbers in the 1990s. The result was that many "good" public servants took voluntary redundancies and in many cases, ended up working in their same jobs for more money.

Sharon formerly of Melbourne

Today's topic

Should Treasurer Wayne Swan resign over the Utegate affair?

thesundaymail.com.au

What sort of leverage do they have to make a big bank consider such an act? Although your article concluded by saying that these loans "would be available to non-Muslims as well", this statement seems to be simply a sop to try to head off indignation.

Allan Best, Riverhills

Give Fraser's dingoes a fair go

KILLER crocs are relocated. Killer sharks are ignored. Dingoes that scare or bite someone are shot. Would you let your child play beside a river up north? Or swim with white pointers? Then why go to Fraser Island if you are not prepared to accept the risks? I've been camping and fishing there for 15 years without a single dingo problem.

Brian Simpson, Childers

Darker side to 150th birthday

I WAS saddened by the self-congratulation of the 150th birthday weekend. I work with people in prison and I am faced with the other history of Queensland nearly every day. How many people know indigenous people go to prison at more than 10 times the rate of non-indigenous people? It is the history of racism in Queensland that has created communities where almost every person is suffering from anxiety, depression and substance abuse. The healing cannot be imposed from outside the community, it will come from those inside, but

were made at all stations informing boarding passengers which carriages they needed to be in to alight at shorter stations. It worked really well.

Ross Hawes, Parkwood

YOUR crowded trains report made mention of QR stopping trains at Landsborough to herd passengers into the front three coaches of Nambour-bound trains. South of Landsborough, all Citytrain platforms are

there is a lot that can be done with goodwill and consultation. For the young people who fall through the cracks of the education system and into the criminal justice system, helping them to work their way out of prison into affordable housing and a full-time job would make an enormous difference.

Meg Perkins, West End

In defence of the Twilight ethic

I WOULD like to complain about columnist Lou Robson's attack on so-called Bible-bashing. So what if the author of the *Twilight* books is against sex before marriage because of her faith? It makes a change from the promotion of sex we're bombarded with. For once I want to read books about real relationships, something we seem to have forgotten in our culture. It's not just Christians who don't believe in sex before marriage. Most religions also oppose it.

Bron Rogers, Camp Hill

move to a door with platform access. Such marks are already used for long-distance trains and commuter trains in other states. If this was done, then it would be necessary to herd relatively few passengers using Eudlo and all stations, except Gympie North, north of Cooroy.

T.D. Langford, Buderim

WHY doesn't Transport Minister Rachel Nolan visit

LOU Robson is free to enjoy "crap without creed" by putting the novel down, or switching TV channels. There are those of us, however, that enjoy the absence of explicit sex scenes in entertainment. And if the wearing of the cross is evidence of Bible-bashing, then perhaps you would be offended by Madonna as well.

S. Brodie, Keperra

SHOULD Lou Robson be criticising a book that makes teenagers want to read, rather than watch television or update their Facebook profile? Some low-level preaching seems a fair price to pay.

J.Mascini, Bulimba

We're helping warming along

MEMO to climate change sceptic Senator Steve Fielding: Seven billion humans breathe out warm CO2 over one-third of the Earth's surface, 24/7.

Frank Hainsworth, Burleigh Waters

Redcliffe and Beaudesert, and from the Gold Coast to Ipswich?

Christian Wolf, Elanora

IF QR's service is bad now then what is it going to be like after privatisation, when the new owner starts increasing fares and cutting costs to maximise profits, as normally happens after public infrastructure is privatised?

Peter Schaper, Biggenden

Primary concerns in childcare

AS YOU reported on June 7, more than 60 Queensland childcare centres failed the federal validation process. But they remain federally registered and state licensed, and have six months to overcome the deficiencies found. Childcare Queensland supports the quality improvement system, and families should realise our primary concerns are for children's health and safety and early learning. The Federal Government agrees with Childcare Queensland that the present validation system of 708 indicator points is cumbersome and time-consuming. A streamlined system is soon to be released, and we hope it results in high-quality services not being penalised for minor breaches that in many cases have no bearing on the wonderful work carried out with children, families and the community daily.

Gwynn Bridge, president, Childcare Queensland

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