

Letters to the editor: Democracy now in disrepute

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LETTERS



Illustration: Alan Moir

Over the past 30 years many services once seen as core government business have been sold off, corporatised or leased out, including the preparation of advice to government about how these decisions may affect the public interest. ("Baird hits back at 'desperate' attack over council mergers", June 3.)

There's little doubt however that when it comes to governments seeking advice then the old adage "he who pays the piper calls the tune" is most apposite.

That KPMG have made major "donations" to both the Coalition and the ALP doesn't show their independence. Rather it simply demonstrates the toxic relationship between corporates and the major political parties, and brings our democratic system into disrepute.

The solution is very simple. No more outsourcing of advice, and reports on everything from local government amalgamations, motorways and privatisation all publicly available before decisions are made so we can indeed, as the *Sydney Morning Herald* used to say, "have a conversation".

Colin Hesse Marrickville

If it's established that KPMG misled and deceived NSW ratepayers of its independence and that the contents of its report to the Baird Government were wrong (whether intentionally or inadvertently) then NSW ratepayers may have a class action for damages against KPMG, for loss of their democratic rights.

This might take some courageous lawmaking by our judiciary, but it's becoming acutely obvious that something is needed urgently to rein in the novel and deceitful new style of politics being rained upon us.

Howard Charles Glebe

Greg Loder's punchy letter calling out the Baird government for its arrogance is representative of the feelings of almost every person I hear, either in the media or conversationally (Letters, June 2).

The juggernaut of politicians' greed and self-interest is stunning. Their support for developers regardless of heritage, public interest issues or the simple lack of transparency in infrastructure planning and bulldozed implementation makes us wonder if they are from the same society as the rest of us. Maybe their allegiance now lies in the tax haven countries where their bank accounts are.

What are you trying to do, Mr Baird? Will you only be happy when you see protesters, many of them grey-haired first-timers, marching down the streets of Sydney so that you create a crisis and can shriek about "lefty" and Green-led tyranny?

Perhaps your arrogance will match Bob Askin's "run the bastards over" as police charge into Australians outraged by political lawlessness.

Kevin Farrell Beelbangera