

## THE FORUM

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## LETTERS

## Abbott's war

Please let there be one sensible person in the Liberal Party who is able to restrain Tony Abbott's wish to be a war-time leader ("PM's mission to Ukraine branded 'nuts' by analyst", July 27). They should not forget that the failure to restrain John Howard's similar ambitions meant that we contributed to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis and the ongoing chaos and destruction that characterises Iraq today.

I hope that the thought that an election might be won by invading somewhere does not mean that in 10 years we will all be hanging our heads over our contribution to the destruction of Ukraine.

William Kennedy Blaxland

Even in his newfound humanitarian mode Tony Abbott

seemingly finds it hard to curb his belligerent instincts. Sending 190 armed AFP personnel into an unstable war zone could compound what is already a disastrous situation. Recovering the bodies from the crash site is a laudable move but not if it is turned into a commando-style exercise. This latest plan follows the militarisation of his refugee policy. Is there perhaps a field marshal's baton in the Prime Minister's knapsack itching to get out?

Garth Clarke North Sydney

## Cook the books

So our politicians continue to lecture us about the need for restraint while their noses are buried in their books, or should that be snouts in the trough ("Taxpayers foot bill for polities' trips and books", July 27). You might think that such well read people might be able to

understand that their excuse that "the books in question are entirely within the publications entitlements" is the cause of the problem and doesn't justify their abuse of the system.

John Maley Greenwich

## We love Aunty

With the ABC facing more funding cuts, I wonder how long before

## Circus of shame

All the assurances by circus owners that their animals are treated well and looked after does not alleviate the fact these creatures should not be imprisoned the way they are ("Circus monkey's escape prompts big top debate", July 27).

The fact that a lot of these animals are circus-bred is ever more sickening. Animals held in circuses for the purpose of human entertainment is barbaric and unjustifiable in this day and age.

Stewart Smith North Kellyville

it is called the AB or even worse, the A ("Secret study identifies more cuts at the ABC", July 27).

Peter Miniutti Ashbury

Here we go again. A new federal government but the same old attack on our national broadcaster, whether or not the male polities sport a blue or red tie. In 1976 the Fraser government met with spirited opposition defending the ABC with the "Eight Cents a Day" campaign and the battle has been going on ever since. But polities and their governments come and go and Aunty keeps on keeping on.

God bless her and all who sail in her. She is one of the cornerstones of our democracy and I could not imagine life without her.

Lorraine Nelson Frenchs Forest

## School bullies

So "state and territory govern-

ments should direct all schools to take responsibility for organising the provision of outside school hours care service for their students" and "principals should organise before and after school care, including care for preschoolers, or adjust school hours" to suit ("Child welfare trumps economics, warn experts", July 27).

As a retired teacher, I give thanks that I am no longer involved in educating children. The insensitivity to any notion of children's welfare, the total disregard for the ability of education systems to cope with such an impost and the offensively dictatorial way it is expressed beggars belief.

What sort of world does the Productivity Commission inhabit - one in which the only imperatives are profit-based economics, perhaps?

Arthur Cooper Altonville

## CLOVER'S PUBLIC ART

## Getting to the art of the matter

One milk crate looks like the next to me ... so an artist has copied an artist who copied a milk crate.

Aaron [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Could the council do something like build more shelters for the homeless on Sydney streets or refuges for abused woman with the money wasted on something that will make NO difference to anyone's life?

Brent [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

They should dump the crate. Apart from being unoriginal, who wants to see an additional reminder of plastic garbage when they're taking time out in a park, which should be a retreat from all that?

But they must keep the cloud-arch, which everyone bagged, because that's what Australians do whenever any public art is proposed - but I think people will enjoy it once it's up. We need ideas like these or we end up with a generic city of grey highrises separated by roads and nothing more.

Matthew [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Tell us when there is some art. That doesn't qualify.

Ian [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Typical naysayer comments. Blah blah, waste of money, blah blah useless. So predictable and boring. I think it's great, fun and ... just what Sydney needs!

Christopher [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Gorgeous to see the Town Hall framed. I love it and it will attract tourists.

Sandy [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Maybe it should be called The Whining Australian? Cause jeez that's all everyone seems to do now. Art is good for the city, right?

Mitchell [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

I think it will be one of those



Crate expectations: An artist's impression of the sculpture.

**A Waste of Money would be a good name.**

#NameTheSculpture.  
 Steve [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

things we hate but then as typical Australians later we will love it and be proud of it when it starts to show up on postcards and pics overseas.

Ken [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Total waste of money while there are still homeless in the streets, people on hospital waiting lists, children going hungry ... Why do we need a useless piece of so-called art to look at in a city as naturally beautiful as Sydney?

Deb [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

I think it will block the beautiful view of the city and generate unnecessary costs which can be spent on the social welfare and transports.

Khang [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

This will bring out the same old "don't we have better things to do with our money?" crowd but at the end of the day it's art and it's not meant to be liked by everyone, just create discussion. I like it for the record.

Jay [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

Love it. Sydney needs more stuff like this to counter the (mostly) horrible architecture.

Barney [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

Here we go again - Clover wasting my rates for vanity projects to protect her legacy. And if we want to evoke ideas about clouds - what's wrong with ... looking at the clouds!

Saul [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

A \$9 million art spree? Well, councils are very good at blowing ratepayers money, which is fine so long as ratepayers get value for money. But are they getting value for money?

Mervyn [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

I am wholly supportive of investing in the City of Sydney, however, having just come back from NY, I have to say we have a huge task ahead. Let's firstly focus on the existing eyesores including Circular Quay and Martin Place before we start throwing money at art pieces and stretching limited funds across non functional investments.

Stella [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

## OPAL NO GEM

## London Oyster card a better system

They will eventually have to adopt the same system as the Oyster card in London, where you can just get one from a machine or ticket counter. What are tourists going to do? Register online and pay \$40, then wait for it to arrive? They will sort it out eventually, but I can't understand why they don't just do it properly in the first place. It's been tried and tested in London.

Joanne [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Yet another tracking device. Can't have too many tracking devices in a modern democracy.

Alex [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

What a mess. Another way to stuff the poor people around and make life that much harder.

Tashi [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

I bet people will still cop a fine because they couldn't top up.

Paul [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)

Absolutely this system is rubbish. I don't want to give my details to the government to assist with its surveillance. I don't want to have to buy a ticket online or have to register just to ride a bloody bus. This is absurd. I just want to be able to

## On Facebook

Thank you, Kate and Linton. You've done an amazing job uncovering what our "honest" politicians should have had the guts to put a stop to years ago.

Trish [facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald](https://www.facebook.com/sydney Morning Herald)



buy a ticket, with the ease and simplicity that I currently enjoy.

David [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

## Tweet of the week

Justin Bieber and Orlando Bloom had a fight ... yeah ... how vicious would that be? Like two Barbie dolls getting smashed together by a toddler.

@JaneyGodley

We've become used to the ineptitude of staff working for Sydney trains fuelled by the grossly overpaid and numerous managers that work at Transport NSW. Perhaps they will rename it again in a year or two, institute another review by a consultancy company and come to the same conclusion - we have too many lazy, inept and overpaid people working there compared with overseas transport entities, which are run far more efficiently and with staff who are better qualified.

Nicholas [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

You start to believe that the government doesn't want an efficient public transport system. It is more interested in providing customers for its proposed private toll roads.

Darcy [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

## BEST OF THE WEB

What people were reading and watching on [smh.com.au](https://www.smh.com.au)

## Top stories past week

194,711

Passengers rage as child 'defecates in plane seat': report

178,094 Jetstar apologises after crew member advises passengers to flush their drugs

141,427 Construction boss Anthony O'Malley charged with drug trafficking

134,870 Nathan Chaina's family ordered to pay Scots College \$8 million in legal fees

120,862 Disgruntled fans walk out on stand-up comedian Carl Barron

## Top videos past week

45,913

Orlando Bloom lashes out at Justin Bieber

39,609 MHI7 investigators being 'hampered'

28,769 Ricciardo claims second GP in Hungary

21,246 Beheaded Syrian soldiers a 'brutal message'

20,074

Australia racks up Commonwealth medals