

newly introduced speed cameras in the southern part of the Eastern Suburbs.

It appears that a large number of drivers who have already demonstrated for decades their capacity to respect the spirit of the law by driving without harming anyone are now in danger of losing their licences to machines that make no human judgments and impose strictly the letter of the law.

For the RTA to say of drivers with good driving records that they have no excuse when they are booked by these machines is a blatant insult to these motorists and shows no appreciation of their true merits.

In a free and democratic society, do we really want the law to be imposed anywhere and in circumstances by machines devoid of the capacity for making a sensible and compassionate judgment?

Roger Taylor
Phillip Bay

Curmudgeonly with a point

I appreciated your call "Curmudgeons, unite!" (*Courier*, October 16). I am actually beyond grumpy about the fact that you couldn't find a space in that issue for the announcement about the "meet the candidates" forum on Tuesday, October 23.

Are there so many forums that there's no need to mention them? Does everyone know by some subliminal signal? Getting information out and about is surely a big part of what the *Southern Courier* does.

Despite government information campaigns, a fair few people didn't know about the changes to the electoral system (having to enrol by 8pm on the day writs are issued, updating addresses, deregistration of any political party that didn't have a member in Parliament). So they'd have to be psychic to know what a small grassroots organisation like us is doing.

Ariel Marguin
Each & All Stronger Together

Reply to Garrett

It appears that Peter Garrett (*Courier*, October 16) is sensitive to Greens' criticism of his weak stance on environmental issues.

While bemoaning the Howard Government's record, Peter Garrett has fallen into line behind Malcolm Turnbull on the pulp mill. Unlike Peter Garrett or Malcolm Turnbull, I have been to the proposed pulp mill site, I have met with local winemakers, fishermen, surfers and others who will breathe, swim and live in the pall of the pulp mill's pollution.

Mr Garrett's support of the pulp mill is an indication that his transformation to ALP party politician is complete.

Nor has he spoken out against the recent approvals of onshore gas mining in the Burrup Peninsula that

will involve the destruction of ancient Aboriginal rock art. He also supports the continuation of Australia's reliance on coal for energy and exports, although coal creates greenhouse gases whichever country burns it.

This record does not fill me with confidence that he will be able to stand up to Orica back home in Kingsford Smith. He acquiesced in their plans to export the waste that have been scotched by Germany's refusal to accept it, so he lost both the easy way out and credibility at once.

As the possible future environment minister, he should be considering appropriate technologies and locations within Australia where the waste could be safely treated.

It is disappointing that Mr Garrett and his party are still unable to set targets to curb greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. The Greens and I support the community-initiated Climate Protection Bill, which was written by concerned residents in Kingsford Smith and seeks to decrease emissions to 30 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.

I know that Mr Garrett received this bill from his constituents in March, but was unwilling to make a commitment to climate change legislation - commitment that is lacking in the ALP as it is in the Liberal Party.

Instead of viewing the Greens as competitors, I invite Mr Garrett to play Me Too-ism with the Greens, rather than the Howard Government. Because of the lack of distinction between the major parties, the Greens are offering what we call "third party insurance" this election.

Sue Mahony
Greens candidate for Kingsford Smith

Putting Chifley on the map

I am writing to advise you of a situation that I thought needed to be rectified.

It came to my attention, after a friend of mine needed to call 000 for the fire brigade, that a local suburb known as "Chifley" was not recognised as a suburb on the 000 phone system. My friend needed to give Malabar as the suburb for her emergency.

I was very concerned about this. I am not a resident of Chifley but have relatives who are. I am also a mother of three young children.

I was concerned that if something should happen at Chifley and one of my children needed to call 000 they would not be able to get the help that was needed.

I contacted Michael Daley's office and the representative also became very concerned, not only for young children but also for the elderly.

The representative was determined to have this situation rectified, as was I.

The representative of Mr Daley's office contacted the fire department and had this matter investigated.

He kept me informed throughout the