



Anger over art spending

I am absolutely appalled at the waste of \$400,000 for the so-called "art sculpture" of aluminium seedpods when so many areas are under-funded by this State Government — education, health and my particular interest, disability, to name a few. Many parents are doing it tough trying to find money to give their disabled children the basics for a quality life. I am desperately trying to buy a new wheelchair van so I can transport my 17-year-old son. It makes my blood boil when I see spending that I feel is grossly improper.

— PAULINE HALUPKA,
COOPERS PLAINS

So Minister Rod Welford believes we need to spend taxpayers' money to create jobs for artists. How many artists were employed on the \$400,000 sculpture? Why do we owe them a living? Why can't they compete with their talents in the market like most everyone else? And when they make it big, how many of them give the money back to the taxpaying "investors"?

— COLIN DEN RONDEN
WINDSOR

Artworks may command outlandish prices, but then so do racecourses and football stadiums. Neither is a necessity,

but if you asked artists and art aficionados about spending money on works such as *Drift*, which the State Government has installed outside its offices in Charlotte St, Brisbane, they would possibly reply: "Not before time". Given the arts receive a much smaller budget than sport and much less media attention, I would plump for more art any day. If we can improve people's outlook by providing beautiful and interesting objets d'art, creativity will be stimulated and general health will improve.

— CLAIRE JOLIFFE,
BUDERIM