

Check out this week's TimeOut - See page 99

Cambridge

# POST

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## Rotto champ shares secrets



Solo Rottneest swim winner Liz Bellis says hard work is the secret to winning the endurance race. She shares her secrets on page 27. Liz is pictured at Cottesloe with lifesavers Jordan Hayes and Danny Smyth.

Photo: Billie Fairclough

# Sympathy for Rayney a Mischin Impossible

By BRET CHRISTIAN

Publicity surrounding the Rayney murder case should not raise public sympathy for Lloyd Rayney, according to Attorney-General Michael Mischin.

Mr Rayney's wife, Corryn, was murdered and found buried in King's Park in 2007. In 2012, Mr Rayney was found not guilty of her murder.

In his judgment on the case, Justice Brian Martin criticised six police officers in the investigation, saying their behaviour was unacceptable, ranging from "inappropriate to reprehensible".

He described one officer's evidence as "arrant nonsense".

Justice Martin said there was no evidence to connect Mr Rayney to the murder, and his behaviour before and after the murder was consistent with his innocence.

Three senior appeal judges, Justices Anthony Whealy, Terence Buddin and Mark Weinberg, reinforced Justice Martin's decision.

In August this year, Mr Rayney asked Mr Mischin, as the state's first law officer, to initiate an external cold case review to find the real murderer.

Mr Mischin said he had met



Lloyd Rayney

Michael Mischin

Police Commissioner Karl O'Callaghan and had been satisfied with the response.

Last weekend, an internal review by the WA police, initially by one police officer, was announced.

Mr Mischin who, with Premier Colin Barnett, initially opposed a cold case review into the crime, told a constituent who had complained that he would not comment.

"Presently, Mr Rayney is the subject of outstanding charges and I propose to make no further comment on the case pending the trial of those," Mr Mischin wrote back.

"The proper trial of those outstanding matters ought not be prejudiced by publicity that creates either prejudice against, or sympathy for, Mr Rayney."

• Please turn to page 15

# Robbed

Reports by BRET CHRISTIAN and LLOYD GORMAN

A political scheme to rob voters in five western suburb councils of their right to have a say on mergers was announced to local mayors on Wednesday.

In another shock, it was revealed the forced merger of Cambridge and Subiaco would be delayed until Parliament passed new laws to expand the City of Perth.

These changes will have a domino effect on neighbouring councils so that the whole process could stall for many months, even years, according to Councils for Democracy



Tony Simpson

Ron Norris

Max Hipkins

spokesman Ron Norris.

"The whole process is an absolute shambles," said Mark McGowan, the Opposition leader, who this week challenged Premier Colin Barnett to take his scheme to the voters at the next election before proceeding any further.

Mr Barnett plans to run again in 2017.

Tony Simpson, the Local Government Minister, admitted to a meeting of mayors this week that he did not know how much the process would cost ratepayers.

Angry mayors said that their ratepayers would have to foot massive bills, estimated at between \$6million and \$8million a council, for a process that still had no business case or cost analysis.

Legislation allowing the Perth and five-council mergers will have at their core denial of local democracy, making it unlikely that the National Party will allow the laws to pass.

• Please turn to page 112



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