# A bad afternoon on the East Hills line

*It would be nice every now and then to read a little perspective, rather than inadvertent low rent aping of Monty Python’s witch scene.*

There is outrage over ‘abuse’ of parliamentary ‘entitlements’. Much like that over a person who has been elected President in a country many thousands of kilometres away.

The Prime Minister has responded sternly, intoning ‘it was important for politicians to remember they were spending "other people's money" and that the Australian people expected "value for money" from MPs' use of taxpayer-funded entitlements’.

The press also pointed to the Finance Minister, he of post Budget cigar chomping and economic girlie man name-calling fame, reportedly using $28000 on five weekend trips to Broome.

At that rate, the *interest* on the cost of constructing Sydney’s northwest metro could allow the Minister and around 150 of his friends to enjoy Broome weekends forever. The principal could cover a $370 gift for every man woman and child in Australia. The numbers would be much higher with Westconnex.

Would it be nice to hear, just once, that it was important for politicians to remember they were spending other people’s money on infrastructure projects? Especially those with hidden costs?

But then again why bother. In infrastructure parlance, the daily opportunity cost of building the northwest metro, just $1.2million per day forever, is ‘less than a bad afternoon on the East Hills line’.

Clearly not as significant as the Foreign Minister missing a polo appointment.

Can we expect better from those who keep dressing in black, chanting the same slogans and hitting their heads with boards?

*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3jt5ibfRzw*