PLANS finally appear about to do something about the state of the CBD. Workers, residents and businesses should all welcome the publication of a draft strategic plan for Darwin council’s CBD waterfront.

There’s a long list of plans, some of which seem so obvious as to beg the question: Why wasn’t this done years ago? Others seem ambitious, and risk ending up on the scrap heap of good ideas that never become reality.

Yet others, such as having “stakeholders” in the business and development lobbies push for changes to penalty rates, will be contentious and, with a Labor Government, could be doomed from the start.

Some things in the strategic plan, such as the commitment to the Barneson Boulevard project, are not new.

One of the proposals is for empty office buildings in the CBD to be gutted and repurposed as student accommodation.

It’s not all big-ticket items though. Council is going to find some good spots for fairy lights, which is to be welcomed. Put simply: Who doesn’t love fairy lights?

Other things in the strategic plan, such as lobbying for Uber as an alternative transport option in the city at night, really have nothing to do with council.

In general terms, the plan gives council and business something worthwhile to work towards, and that should be welcomed. For too long the city has been going backwards.

Council had better work hard and fast to make some improvements. Elections are on the horizon and voters will reward aldermen who make an effort to make the CBD a better place.

Unlike many council reports, this one cannot be left to collect dust.

TOURIST operators received a boon yesterday when one of the opportunities as children in Sydney or Melbourne.

The negatives of unfettered population growth include deterioration of habitat, pressure on health and education, and pressure on supply of housing and food and energy and water. — SEE BELOW

The positives should be an increase in wages and living standards.

It’s not happening.

Clayton Dwyer, Milliner

French got it right

IT appears that it is all right for pressure from a minority (a very small minority) of already wealthy people to force change to tax laws on superannuation to benefit them, even though the Prime Minister had assured us that no changes would be accepted.

Yet when a clear majority of the Australian population reject the plebiscite on same sex marriage, with the potential damage to vulnerable people (including children) that would occur in its wake, and want the Parliament to do its duty and vote on an acceptable change to the Marriage Act, no such action can be allowed.

Abbott politicised the issue in the way he achieved agreement from Coalition members that a totally unnecessary plebiscite would be held – which, remember, his successor promised would happen before the end of this year.

How many of you truly believe that Turnbull’s Government interest in your concerns is greater than his interest in being Prime Minister?

If this were July 1998, France, the guillotine would be claiming its victims and the people would be making change happen.

Rosemary Jacob, Fannie Bay

Screwed on wages

AS farmers looking to East Timor for fruit pickers … how about you pay actual wages for human toil?

Before Australian currency was deliberately devalued in WW2 to undermine the value of labour the minimum wage was the equivalent buying power of $96,000 a year.

Corporate executives and the politicians courting them are the only ones who have enjoyed real increases in wage in the past 70 years.

Everyone else got screwed.

We can divide up Australia into one acre lots. There is a billion to go around.

Sean Robert Meaney,
Darwin

No inequality

A FEW things are not making sense about the call for marriage equality.

In 2015, Labor’s Tanya Plibersek said: “We changed 85 laws at the time, removed every piece of legal discrimination against gay men, lesbians and same-sex couples on the statute books.”

Holland had introduced gay marriage for 12 years before 2013 when their statistics found that only 20 per cent of same-sex couples took the opportunity to pledge fidelity for the long term.

More than half of woman-man couples in Australia are de facto, and choose not to marry and this has the status for about 30 years.

There is no inequality.

Tom Bird, Larapinta

Mud in your eye

WHAT’S going on with the police not enforcing the rules regarding mudguards on motor vehicles?

They couldn’t because every police officer in this country history has worked with road secrets.

The people that drive these things obviously don’t care about their fellow road users.

A few years ago the police would defect your car if the tyres were only a few millimetres outside the guards. Are police ignoring this? I see it too often for them not to be.

Name and address withheld

On this day in the territory

10 YEARS AGO: A Territory mayor has accused the Federal Government of delaying a solar city announcement until a date closer to next year’s election. Alice Springs Mayor Fran Kilgaff said the Environment Department was due to have declared five solar cities in August.

20 YEARS AGO: About 40 staff from the Federal Department of Agriculture staged a half-day strike in support of another worker yesterday. The staff were angry over the possible sacking of assistant director of public programs James Dexter.

25 YEARS AGO: Territory MHR Warren Snowdon accused the Federal Government of having a privileged relationship with the CLP government.