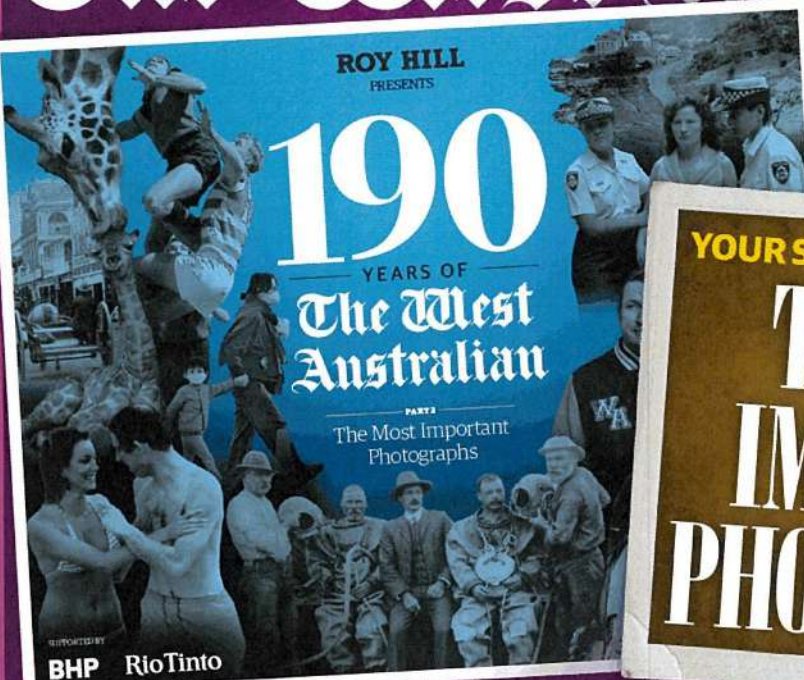


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Heritage law crisis talks

EXCLUSIVE
DANIELLE LE MESSURIER

WA's biggest miners have held crisis meetings about the State Government's incoming cultural heritage laws amid concerns about issues including high costs under the new system.

While supportive of the intent of the post-Juukan Gorge heritage reforms, set to come into force on July 1,

CONTINUED PAGE 9

\$2b social housing fix

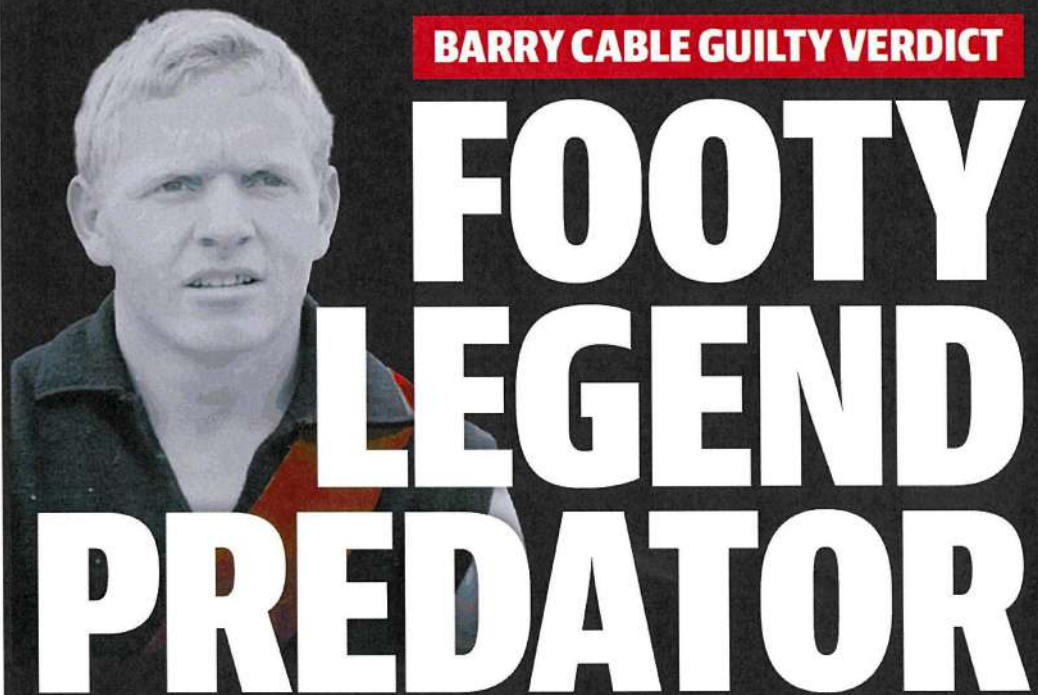
DAN JERVIS-BARDY

The Federal Government will hand the States and Territories a combined \$2 billion for social housing. Under a surprise announcement that puts pressure on the Greens to back Labor's signature housing legislation.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will announce the funding on Saturday.

CONTINUED PAGE 9

BARRY CABLE GUILTY VERDICT



TIM CLARKE

Football champion Barry Cable has been revealed to be a sexual predator who used his fame and power to target

and exploit young girls. Judge Mark Herron said yesterday he not only believed the harrowing evidence of the Cable family's former babysitter - who took the legal action -

but also four other women who alleged Cable sexually abused them when they were children in the 1980s and 1990s. The litigant's solicitor, Michael Magazaniuk, said he

would be "shocked" if police did not reopen an inquiry into Cable, which was dropped more than 20 years ago.

MUST READ REPORTS P2-5

EXCLUSIVE VOICE POLL 57% SUPPORT FOR YES VOTE IN WA P8

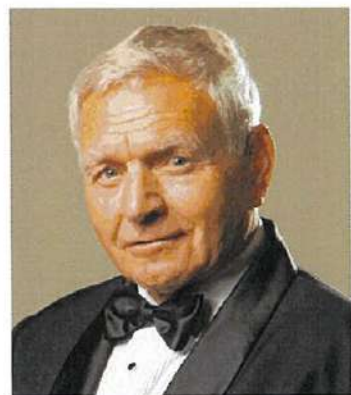
PERTH 6-16 Partly cloudy. Tomorrow: Cloudy. 6-17. Yesterday: 15.2-19.5

Weather details P156



FOOTY ICON EXPOSED AS A SICKENING SEXUAL PREDATOR

He was once the toast of WA, but Barry Cable will now forever be known as a paedophile



TIM CLARKE

Liar. Coward. Paedophile. That is how fallen football icon Barry Cable was labelled yesterday, after a judge ruled he was a serial child sexual predator who used his fame and power to target and terrorise vulnerable young girls.

More than 25 years after formal allegations of sickening child abuse were first made about the 79-year-old football icon, Judge Mark Herron said he believed they were true.

He described some of the victim's evidence as compelling.

And so he ordered Cable pay more than \$800,000 in damages — an amount he said was part compensation and part punishment.

"(Cable) was a person with a high and well-respected public profile which caused people to trust him and which provided him with the opportu-

nity to sexually abuse," Judge Herron said.

"There is the need to send a message to adult men, who are the principal persons who perpetrate child sexual abuse, that they cannot take advantage of a power imbalance and the trust children place in them, to sexually abuse those children.

"The evidence establishes a pattern of sexually inappropriate behaviour towards young girls aged 10 to 12 whom (Cable) had befriended through his friendship with their parents.

"Through that friendship — and because of his respected public stature — those responsible for the care of the children trusted the defendant when their children were in his company or care.

"The defendant abused that trust." Cable was not in court to hear the judgment, just as he had not attended the trial earlier this year. He claimed

in his defence statement that to fight the allegations he had "used all my savings, mortgaging my house, and selling my medals".

Those medals — including an MBE awarded in 1978 for services to Australian rules football — should now be stripped, according to the woman's lawyer Michael Magazanik.

"It's a day to honour my client's bravery and that of the other women who gave evidence. They're the people where the public respect and admiration (should go) — certainly not

Cable," he said. "Barry Cable is a paedophile, a liar and a coward.

"He's a paedophile because that's what the court has found — and that's what five women he molested as children have said under oath, at trial.

"These were children who he molested. He's a liar because he lied about it for years denying all of it.

"And he's a coward because he was too gutless to turn up to trial and face the music."

That trial heard two days of harrowing evidence from the woman who brought the case in 2018, and whose lawyers then repelled three attempts by Cable's legal team to have it permanently put off.

"Barry used to say it was our secret and that he was my coach and we weren't hurting anyone and that I was a very lucky girl," she told the trial. "It was always all about him getting what he wanted."

"I felt like I was programmed by Barry. I was worthless, a piece of meat, an object for his pleasure.

"I wished I was dead."

Despite criticising the way the woman's evidence was presented — read as it was from her nearly 25-year-old police statement — Judge Herron said he believed her allegations that Cable exposed himself to her in 1969.

He attempted to rape her at the swimming pool where he worked in 1969 and 1971.

From 1969 he forced her to touch him, and touched her in his car after football matches. And on, and on.

"As a result of being sexually abused

by the defendant the plaintiff has suffered psychiatric injury and harm and is entitled to an award of damages," Judge Herron said.

Those totalled \$818,700 but are unlikely to ever be paid, after Cable declared bankruptcy on the eve of the trial.

In response to the findings, the AFL said it "acknowledged the court's findings and has no further update at this stage".

But it did confirm that rule changes set to be confirmed this month will mean that a Hall of Famer can be kicked out if a player, coach or official was convicted of an indictable offence in court — or engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of the game.

The West Australian Football Commission said it would "review the impact of the decision".

North Melbourne — where Cable coached and played his way into their Team of The Century — said they were considering their position.

Mr Magazanik said that position should be inevitable.

"The evidence was while he was coaching North Melbourne in the VFL, he was raping kids in a spa in his backyard," he said.

"The AFL has never got in touch with us to reach out to those women who were abused by Cable... it's a no-brainer. He has to be tossed out of the Hall of Fame and everything else."

Premier Roger Cook said he respected the court's decision and praised the woman at the centre of the case for her bravery.

Barry Cable's victim arrives at court with her lawyer Michael Magazanik. Picture: Justin Benson-Cooper

Brave victim 'told truth for decades'

TIM CLARKE

"I no longer feel shame for the crimes committed against me. It's his turn to feel the burning shame."

Those were the immediate emotions of the woman who — after 25 years — was finally believed when she said she had been sexually abused by football legend Barry Cable.

Surrounded by supporters, the now 67-year-old sat stock-still in the District Court on Friday as Judge Mark Herron revealed what he had concluded about her evidence detailing five years of persistent child abuse from the age of 12.

He found that she had been groomed, flashed at, fondled and raped for five teenage years.

He also found that Cable had continued to pressure her into sex as an adult.

That decision, she later said, "clears a giant obstacle from my road to recovery".

"I am recognised for having told the truth for decades," the woman said in a statement.

"As a child, I was unlucky enough to live

next door to a paedophile, Barry Cable. As is the case for so many abuse survivors, it took me decades to go to the police.

"And as is so common, the system failed me."

She praised the police officers who took her original statement in 1998, which was not acted on criminally.

Some of those officers were prepared to give evidence in court against Cable.

Some were in court to hear the decision.

"Today is also vindication for four brave WA police officers who believed me and fought in vain in the 1990s to see the abuser face justice," she said.

"The world now knows the real person — the paedophile, not the football star.

"But nobody should ever forget that he spent decades enjoying the limelight and spent vast sums of money fighting to hide the truth.

"To the brave women who came to trial and gave evidence for me, thank you, thank you, thank you.

"And to those who knew or suspected that he was a serial paedophile — shame on you."



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WHY DID THIS TAKE

Police began investigating Cable 25 years ago and since then claims of interference at the highest levels have plagued the case



Supt David Caporn, above, and Deputy Commissioner Bruce Brennan were both accused of interfering in the case.



SHANNON HAMPTON
& TIM CLARKE

The lawyer for the woman sexually abused for years as a young girl by disgraced football great Barry Cable says he will be "shocked" if police do not launch a criminal investigation of the paedophile.

Outside WA's District Court on Friday, after Judge Mark Herron found Cable persistently preyed on the young girl for many years from the 1960s, her lawyer Michael Magazanik said it would be a "no-brainer" that police should get involved.

"I mean, a District Court judge has found that he sexually assaulted five children, in some cases 11-year-old children — raped kids. If the police aren't interested, I'd be shocked," Mr Magazanik said.

But asked if they would pursue Cable, 79, in the wake of the findings, WA Police said it "will not comment on the outcome of a civil trial".

"If a person has been the victim of a sexual assault and wishes to proceed with police engagement, then WA Police will fully investigate that complaint," a spokeswoman said.

The woman first complained to police in 1998.

"(She) gave a very detailed statement," Mr Magazanik said. "The police who interviewed her thought that there was more than enough evidence to charge Cable."

In that statement, she told how she had initially viewed Cable as a father figure.

He then offered to teach her the facts of life.

"He said he would be a good coach and I would thank him some day," she said in her statement. "The little talks we had, he would call a lesson or training session."

"He used to say it was our secret, that he was my coach and that I was a very lucky girl. I didn't ever feel good."

"If I refused to do something, he said my sister would be his special girl."

"This terrified me and made me protect her from him. I felt worthless, hated myself and wished I was dead."

"I would go to a little garden I had created in my mind. When he had finished what he was



Former police officers Chris Italiano, far left, and Jo Connoley, right, outside court after the judge's ruling. Picture: Justin Benson-Cooper

doing I would come back to the awfulness of what I felt."

Following the police investigation, detectives and the Director of Public Prosecutions decided not to charge the Australian Football Hall of Fame legend.

The case then took a major twist, when four detectives involved in the investigation alleged there had been interference by senior police, one of whom was deputy police commissioner Bruce Brennan, who was good friends with Cable.

The other was Supt David Caporn, who once headed the Macro taskforce probing the Claremont serial killings.

Those allegations were eventually probed by the Kennedy Royal Commission into police corruption, during which Cable was referred to as Q2.

While Mr Brennan denied a close friendship with the football icon, there was a photograph of the two men together on his wall when Supt Caporn briefed him on the Cable allegations in August 1998.

Sometime after Cable was taken from his home and interviewed at the child abuse unit in November that year, Mr Brennan and Cable went on a bike ride around the Swan River. The investigation was allegedly never discussed.

Then, in December, despite the fact Supt Caporn said he

believed the woman's allegations that she was sexually abused by Cable — Mr Brennan, who had received another briefing from Supt Caporn in November, wrote a letter supporting an application by the footballer for a youth grant.

The cloak of protection over Cable's identity was lifted on August 26, 2002, when then 6PR morning show host Paul Murray named the three-time Sandover medallist while calling for a proper investigation of claims police were sweeping the allegations under the rug.

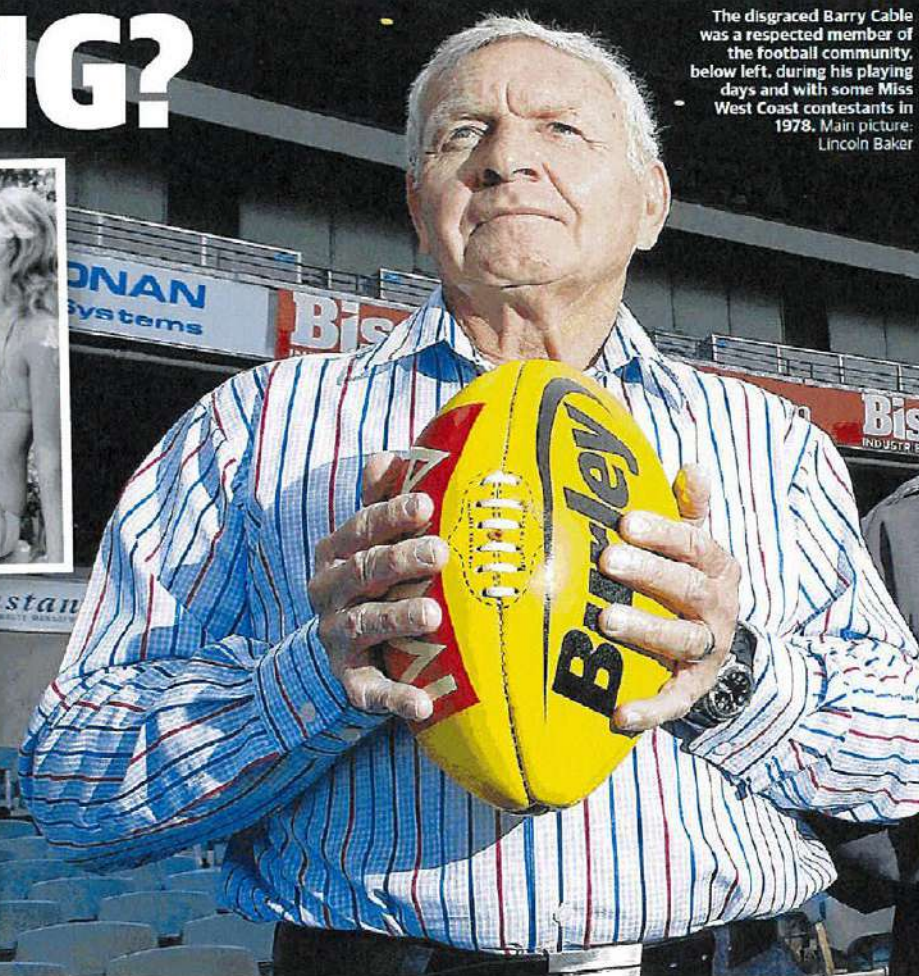
Earlier that same day, the woman had held a press conference with lawyer John Hammond — who was representing the four detectives who handled her report and claimed the senior officers had improperly interfered.

It was alleged Cable was being interviewed by child abuse unit detectives on November 17, 1998, when the interview was terminated after five minutes and told he should be released.

The officers claimed they met with Supt Caporn, who said there was insufficient evidence to charge Cable and told them a prosecutor from the Department of Public Prosecutions agreed.

They alleged the senior officer told them "regardless of whether Cable confessed or not,

SO LONG?



The disgraced Barry Cable was a respected member of the football community, below left, during his playing days and with some Miss West Coast contestants in 1978. Main picture: Lincoln Baker

you are to release him and I will reassess the evidence".

In her 2002 press conference, the victim said: "I have never been satisfied that there was not interference in the investigation and I am incensed if there is what seems to be one justice for the famous or well-connected and another for the rest."

It was ultimately found that while senior police contact with Cable at the time was "unwise, if not foolish", the officers had not engaged in any improper conduct.

After Friday's judgment, Mr Magazanik said: "So, to be clear, some of the police wanted

to charge him in 1998, but the Director of Public Prosecutions, despite believing everything that my client said about the assaults that had been perpetrated on her, thought there was insufficient prospect of conviction and refused to charge Cable."

"There was then two secret inquiries into why Cable wasn't charged with criminal offences, and my client had to endure all of that. All of this was painful for my client. But she never gave up, never stopped worrying about what Cable might be doing to children."

Mr Magazanik said the

woman contacted him as soon as the law changed in WA abolishing time limits for abuse survivors in civil claims.

"Rightside Legal has been fighting for her ever since, and so today is just a giant vindication for her. Nothing corrects the historic wrongs. My client's only fault was that she lived (near) to Barry Cable," he said.

During the case, four other women came forward with claims they, too, had been sexually abused by Cable as children — claims Judge Herron said he believed. And Mr Magazanik said "if you've abused five children — that's probably

not the sum total of all the children you've abused — in fact it's certainly not".

Asked about the matter, WA Police media unit Insp. Geoff DeSanges reiterated he could not comment on the civil case but urged anyone who had been sexually assaulted to report the matter to the authorities.

Mr Magazanik thanked the officers who took his client's 1998 statement and then pushed to charge Cable, and "whose career suffered because of the controversy that followed".

He then read a statement from his client giving her own thanks to those officers. "It

took me decades to go to the police, and as is so common, the system failed me," she said.

"But today is also a vindication for brave WA Police officers who believed me and fought in vain in the 1990s to see the abuser face justice."

"Those police officers were Chris Italiano, Jo Connoley, Bill Manners and Mick Miller."

"Today, I no longer feel shame for the crimes committed against me. It's Cable's turn to feel the burning shame. The world now knows the real person — the paedophile — not the football star."

Footy world stays quiet after one-time hero becomes a pariah

MITCHELL WOODCOCK

The West Australian Football Commission says it will "review the impact" of the judge's ruling in the case of Barry Cable.

The disgraced footy star enjoyed a stellar career on the field but his legacy has been forever tarnished after District Court Judge Mark Herron found

Cable groomed and then persistently sexually abused a woman from the age of 12.

And it emerged on Friday that he could have his spot in the Australian Football Hall of Fame revoked with the AFL set to change the rules for those convicted of indictable offences or engage in misconduct that brings the game into disrepute.

Cable was seen as one of the game's greats in a career spanning nearly two decades and 384 games for Perth, East Perth and North Melbourne. He also played in 20 State games for WA and one for Victoria.

Cable won three Sandover medals as the WAFL's best player as well as four WAFL premierships and was part of the

North Melbourne Team of the Century. He was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame in 1996 and elevated to legend status in 2012, while he was also inducted into the Western Australian Football Hall of Fame in 2004.

When asked what the judge's decision meant for Cable's standing in the game, a WAFL spokes-

man remained non-committal. "The West Australian Football Commission will review the impact of this decision," he said.

Perth Football Club, where Cable spent most of his career, directed The West Australian to the WAFL's response when asked for comment. Meanwhile, North Melbourne said they were considering their position.

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