

EDITORIALS

Di Natale's callous histrionics

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Greens leader Richard Di Natale's blaming inaction on climate change for the bushfires and cyclone that have savaged parts of the nation is irrational and offensive for Australians who have suffered devastating property and livestock losses. Senator Di Natale stepped up his cynical posturing yesterday, likening the Turnbull government's policies to the US National Rifle Association's refusal to acknowledge the need for gun laws to prevent mass shootings. A former general practitioner, Senator Di Natale should have more empathy with people than to play politics with their suffering.

In South Australia, the Greens are showing scant regard for democracy following the electorate's firm rejection of the Weatherill government's discredited renewable energy target. The 50 per cent RET delivered soaring power prices and compromised supply. A new report by the Australian Energy Market Commission has confirmed renewables-based power is making the national grid unstable and less secure, with outages almost trebling in three years. Despite the electorate's rejection of Labor, South Australian Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young says the party will use its votes in the SA upper house to fight any moves by the Marshall government to wind back the renewables push. The Greens also want to block the new government's plans to pass legislation to facilitate Malcolm Turnbull's national energy guarantee. Unlike the Greens' hot air, the NEG offers a responsible, rational approach to affordable energy while reducing emissions to meet Australia's obligations under the Paris Agreement.

Senator Di Natale and his party have shown they lack the policies and expertise to make a constructive contribution to the nation. Late-season bushfires and cyclones are nothing new on our torrid continent. In March 1899, Cyclone Mahina claimed 400 lives on Cape York. The previous year, 1898, saw disastrous bushfires in Victoria.

Instead of trying to score points on the back of great suffering, a party interested in the environment would do better to focus on issues such as hazard-reduction burning and responsible tree clearing in bushfire-prone areas.

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