

Di Natale misses the point on reasons for bushfires

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Having lost the Batman by-election, and lost votes in South Australia, the Greens are desperately searching for ways to bring back voters. Hence, you report that Greens leader Richard Di Natale has seized on the bushfires recently experienced to blame the federal government's failure to address climate change and allowing conditions conducive to bushfires ("Greens fire up climate row", 20/3).

He suggests we need more usage of renewable energy, the high use of which was one of the reasons Labor lost the SA election. That aside, the last IPCC report in 2014 said its modelling concluded that "it's likely the number of tropical cyclones will either decrease or remain essentially unchanged".

It is highly unlikely that increased usage of renewable would lead to reduced cyclones and bushfires. The most likely cause of the latter is the increased restrictions on clearing which Greens support and which was a cause of the dreadful Tathra fires.

Des Moore, South Yarra, Vic

Richard Di Natale is blaming climate change for the fires at Tathra. He also believes that by stopping the Adani mine, this would help the Great Barrier Reef. Well, India needs coal so it would just buy it elsewhere. It may come as a surprise to the Greens, but there is only one atmosphere, and that means actions taken by other countries have an effect on the world.

Given that solar and wind cannot deliver guaranteed base-load electricity, we also need to have a back-up which can only be hydro, nuclear or fossil fuel.

Even assuming climate change is real, Australia produces 1.3 per cent of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions; China alone produces 30 per cent and its year-on-year increase exceeds our measly contribution.

John Burns, Hall, ACT

Only days after the savage fires in Tathra, Greens leader Richard Di Natale is claiming the fires were due to global warming caused by electricity guzzling people who will not embrace inefficient, embryonic technology, such as solar and wind.

Di Natale would be wise to study the history of climate and bushfires in Australia which are part of Dorothea Mackellar's poem *My Country* published in 1908.

One can find many references to bushfires during the 1800s, long before global warming became fashionable. One was February 6, 1851, when fires ravaged a quarter of Victoria.

David Segal, East Killara, NSW

Until you have confronted the reality of destroyed homes, burnt pets and livestock and the abject despair of what looks like an insurmountable recovery process that you may or may not be able to achieve in your lifetime, then surely Richard Di Natale and others should just shut up for a few days before resuming the fight on climate change.

Joanna Wriedt, Eaglemont, Vic

Malcolm Turnbull was correct to rebuke Richard Di Natale for linking climate change policies to the natural disasters in the Northern Territory, Victoria and NSW.

Di Natale knows full well that Australia contributes less than 2 per cent to global carbon dioxide. As a consequence there is absolutely nothing in reducing Australia's pollution levels that would have had any effect in preventing these disasters. Di Natale's remarks are pure populist politics and are unadulterated nonsense. He should apologise for misleading the public for political purposes.

N. Bailey, Nicholls, ACT

What is the point of saving the planet if people are not able to live on it? The Greens in their defective wisdom are responsible for the bushfires in NSW because of council tree-hugging policy of hazard reduction.

P. J. Grant, Ipswich, Qld

As the parliamentary bar is lowered by Richard Di Natale, his Greens colleagues in South Australia are set to defy the Liberal Party's newly won mandate on energy reform.

And while Bill Shorten persists with the politics of envy, Malcolm Turnbull continues to lead the Coalition to its longest period of low support, while in Victoria we have news of Labor's abuse of taxpayer funds during the 2014 election campaign. Graham Richardson summed up our disdain for the political

class when he noted Aussies don't like the main parties much, but when we put the minor parties under the microscope, we don't like them much either.

Mandy Macmillan, Singleton, NSW