

JULIE BISHOP'S TWO FAKE ARGUMENTS FOR PARIS

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Tony Abbot says Australia should leave the Paris agreement because it means we hurt Australians without helping the planet.

In response, Foreign Minister Julie Bishop makes two false arguments.

BISHOP'S FIRST FAKE ARGUMENT

Bishop says Abbott himself signed the Paris agreement in 2015 and bound us to it: "When we signed up to the Paris agreement it was in the full knowledge it would be an agreement Australia would be held to account for and it wasn't an aspiration it was a commitment."

First: so what? Irrelevant. The argument against this dumb deal - it's useless and painful, and does not bind the world's top three emitters to cuts - remains regardless of who makes it.

Second: Bishop is wrong. Turnbull, not Abbott, bound us to this deal in 2016 by formally ratifying it the instant Donald Trump was elected President on a promise to walk out of the Paris agreement. What Abbott signed in 2015 was a tentative agreement that included this get-out: "Australia reserves the right to adjust our target and its parameters before it is finalised under a new global agreement should the rules and other underpinning arrangements of the agreement differ in a way that materially impacts the definition of our target." And the deal he provisionally signed up to included the US. Now it doesn't.

Third: to repeat, so what? The issue is not who signed this, but whether we should stay in a dud deal that hurts us without helping the planet. The issue is not Abbott but Australia.

BISHOP'S SECOND FAKE ARGUMENT

Bishop says we should stick to this (dud) deal now the we have signed it: "Australia plays by the rules — if we sign an agreement we stick to the agreement."

First: Bishop is a hypocrite. As deputy to Tony Abbott as Prime Minister she made an agreement to support him. Instead, she betrayed him, and backed the Turnbull plotters in toppling him.

Second: pathetic. Australia shouldn't stick to a disastrous deal just because it was once stupid enough to sign it. It's even crazier to stick by that deal when

it's changed on you for the worst: when, in this case, the US pulls out and most of Europe fails to meet its targets, and when the planet doesn't warm as predicted.

Third: Bishop is wrong. The Paris agreement in fact does not oblige Australia to stick with it for the rest of history. In fact, it contains a get-out clause for all signatories: countries can indeed leave the treaty on four years' notice.