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## Critics fire up task for PM

### Scott Morrison needs way to deal with unrealistic climate calls



**PAUL MURRAY**



The anti-capitalist Left, misguided greens and virtue-signalling businesses hijacking the fires to demand unrealistic climate change policies offer no solution to this summer's threats.

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**A**fter two weeks of watching the residents of Australia's most populous State face, with a mixture of primal fear and outright heroism, the bushfire threat that attacked many country towns and darkened Sydney's skies with choking smoke, a glistening jewel shone right at the end.

As we waited for our flight back to Perth, the plane due to take us there arrived from Darwin.

Among the first off, marching into the terminal like stormtroopers was a bunch of relief volunteer firefighters from the Territory.

Real bushes. They didn't need to say anything, their body language was enough as they hustled past, heads swivelling side to side like over-active kelpies in their fluoro gear:

"Where's the fire? Where's the fire? Take us to the f...ing fire."

What a country. And what a way to leave the Big Smoke, which Sydney was again last weekend after several days of cool respite lowered the fire dangers.

Not so sparkling was the contribution of upmarket jeweller Tiffany & Co in a full-page advertisement at the front of the Sydney Morning Herald on Saturday which neatly encapsulated everything wrong with the climate change debate over the past month.

The open letter to Prime Minister Scott Morrison by the New York-based company was headed "We stand

with Australia": "As the brave people of Australia continue to battle bushfires that are devastating communities and wildlife, now is the time for bold and decisive climate action."

"This disaster of climate change is too real, and the threat to our planet and our children is too great."

Note it wasn't addressed to Xi Jinping, Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin or Narendra Modi, who might be able to do something about lowering global emissions. Or even to Paris agreement truants like Jacinda Ardern and Justin Trudeau.

At the bottom of the ad, on which the biggest type boosted the Tiffany & Co branding, was a link to a "sustainability" page on the company website.

There Tiffany says it committed to cut its carbon emissions by 15 per cent between 2013 to 2020 "regardless of how much our business grows".

Anyone familiar with Australia's Paris commitments might see

that as a low horizon, not putting Tiffany in a position to preach to foreign governments.

It was, of course, pure brand marketing to a clientele that can afford not to worry about the extra costs inherent in "bold and decisive climate action" that helped kill off Labor's chances in the May elections.

But whatever Tiffany wants from Scott Morrison is nowhere detailed. It should be an absolute requisite for the Government's critics to specify measures they say will fix what they categorise as an emergency so the true social and economic costs can be publicly evaluated.

A couple of things are self-evident and undeniable. Even if Australia cut its carbon emissions to zero tomorrow it would have no effect on the local climate in the foreseeable future given the planned growth by much bigger emitters.

If we had cut our 1.3 per cent of global emissions 20 years ago when mitigation was first advanced, any savings would have been completely

overwhelmed by the massive growth of other nations.

And the bush will not get any less flammable by Australia cutting emissions alone.

So how do we deal with increasingly dangerous bushland while measures to reduce global emissions are emerging — a process that will take many decades?

It is understandable that people are fearful and frustrated by the fires. But lashing out does nothing to improve the situation.

It just makes our national political debate even more fractured, less productive and psychologically damaging.

The truth is that bushfire prevention has always been a States issue and so will be adaptation to climate change — the only real approach at hand.

It is important to know that these fires are not unprecedented, even if only to reassure people that the nation has been through this torment before.

As of last weekend, this summer's blazes have taken 29 lives and destroyed around 2400 properties, mainly in NSW and Victoria.

History shows these grim statistics: 1926 Victoria's Black Sunday, 60 dead and 1000 buildings destroyed; 1939 Victoria's Black Friday, 71 dead and 5000 buildings; 1967 Tasmania's Black Tuesday, 62 dead and 1300; 1983 South Australia and Victoria's Ash Wednesday, 75 dead and 3000; 2009 Victoria's Black Saturday, 180 dead and 3500.

The anti-capitalist Left, misguided greens and virtue-signalling businesses hijacking the fires to demand unrealistic climate change policies offer no solution to this summer's threats. Finding one will be Morrison's greatest challenge in Government.



## Office food villains leave co-workers hungry for answers

**A**fter a hectic morning in the office, the very thought of your gluten-free, tuna-and-salad sourdough sandwich has you salivating.

As the clock strikes noon, you head for the office kitchen fridge only to discover your lunch box is missing — it's been pinched by a hungry colleague.

The communal office fridge has long been feeding chilled workplace relations in workplaces around the country.

One study on lunch looting revealed that around one-in-five workers had admitted to pinching a colleague's grub from the



fridge. Think no further than the post-it notes displaying messages in menacing capitals in many office fridges: "POISONOUS LEFTOVERS", "DO NOT TOUCH", "PROPERTY OF X" and "GET YOUR DIRTY FINGERS OFF".

While some meal marauders decide to take a colleague's full lunch menu, others treat the office as a buffet by snacking on the best items across a range of

lunches on a particular day — for example, taking a soft drink from one unsuspecting colleague, a prawn-and-avocado roll from another and a cupcake from someone else.

So why do so many of our colleagues help themselves to others' food and refreshments?

It's obvious that some workers are unhappy with their own lunch. Another reason is that lunch villains are too pressed for time to make their own and enjoy the convenience of the daily smorgasbord on offer in the office fridge.

It's possible too that financial pressures on some colleagues

have driven them to pilfer lunches in an endeavour to make ends meet.

And what about the disgruntled worker who steals a colleague's lunch as a pure act of revenge, only to dump it untouched in the bin.

Your now-ravenous colleagues are fighting back with interesting tactics like the ruse involving the sandwich bag with spots of fake mould to act as a deterrent, planting a plastic cockroach in the middle of a ham and cheese wrap to provide shock value, or filling a sandwich with chillies to bite back at an unsuspecting thieving co-worker.

Some aggrieved lunch owners have even installed a spy camera and others have purchased the big red sandwich suitcase that comes with a combination lock.

But if you still believe your lunch is at risk of being pinched, avoid the office fridge entirely by bringing your mini esky into work and guarding it like your life depends on it.

Or buy your tucker from the office canteen and make sure you eat it straight away.

**Professor Gary Martin is chief executive, the Australian Institute of Management WA**