

A yellow attack from the Greens in cowards' castle

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Greens MP Adam Bandt is a former student activist and industrial lawyer whose response to the unspeakable horror of the 9/11 attacks in the US and the subsequent war on terror was to go back to university and complete a PhD titled *Work to Rule: Rethinking Marx, Pashukanis and Law*. "It was looking at the suspension of the rule of law and trying to understand why it's happening now and its connection with globalisation," he told SBS. "This was obviously in the midst of John Howard and the 'war on terror'". Around the same time Jim Molan, who was sworn in as a Liberal senator this week, was commanding Australian and US defence forces in the most difficult phase of the Iraq war, after the initial overthrow of Saddam Hussein had descended into a bloody battle against the ruthless Islamist insurgents who, years later, would metastasise as Islamic State. Major General Molan was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Australia and the Legion of Merit award by the US.

Yesterday, more than a decade on from these contrasting experiences, Mr Bandt derided Senator Molan as a "complete coward". That it is not a misprint — the Greens MP who was inspired by the war on terror to write a PhD on Marxism, workplace relations and globalisation, dubbed the military leader who risked all on the battlefields of Iraq and in the liberation of East Timor a "complete coward". It got even worse. Mr Bandt accused the former major general of being a war criminal. "I tell you what, if there was a proper inquiry into the war in Iraq," the Greens MP said, "I think you'd find Jim Molan would probably be up for prosecution rather than praise." That this attack was laughable, vitriolic, unbecoming and irksome must be obvious to any functioning adult. Yet Mr Bandt's hateful intercession was no accident and he was no loner. Other Greens, including leader Richard Di Natale and senators Sarah Hanson-Young and Nick McKim, also viciously attacked Senator Molan who, within hours of walking into parliament, became a new lightning rod for far left vitriol.

The pretext of the Greens overreach has been legitimate criticism of Senator Molan over social media re-posts last year of material from UK anti-Muslim outfit Britain First. He has deleted the posts but refused to apologise. While he was circulating videos that highlighted legitimate law and order issues relating to immigration and Muslim grievances in Europe, he says that at the time he was not aware of the far-right bigotry being peddled by the then obscure Britain First. This is reasonable. While people need to be wary of who and what they interact with on social media, they are directly responsible only for the views they express, not all the views of the individuals or organisations who have posted an item they like or share. This was a

minor mistake that has only been elevated because of the way the Greens used it to launch a shameful attack, betraying their prejudice against anyone who holds contrary views.

The Greens like to label others as racists, xenophobes, Islamophobes, sexists, misogynists, bigots and warmongers. It must be tiring expressing such loathing for your compatriots and it is perhaps difficult to live in this country when you assign such appalling views to large swaths of the population. In order to engage in their twisted version of virtue-signalling, the Greens need to demonise someone. In this case it is Senator Molan, who epitomises most of what they despise — a conservative Liberal who has worn military uniform in defence of his nation, participated in the Iraq war, helped devise Operation Sovereign Borders and shared insights into the contemporary threat of Islamist extremist terrorism. That such a man could be treated so poorly by elected representatives, Green or not, brings our parliament into disrepute. It is typical of the Greens, who soak up all the benefits of a secure and prosperous nation and its institutions while seeking to undermine its character.

So far this year the Greens have had a profound impact on political debate by promoting the shifting of Australia Day, a federal anti-corruption commission and the blocking of the Adani coalmine. Their extreme views on these issues have been amplified for one reason: because their unofficial partnership with Labor empowers them. Bill Shorten is aping the Greens' positions on the anti-corruption commission and Adani, and flirting with the #movetheday protests, hoping to consolidate Labor's left-wing support and hold inner-city seats such as Batman (in a March 17 by-election). The Opposition Leader ought to be mindful of what happened after Julia Gillard entered a formal agreement with the Greens in 2010 — the so-called rainbow coalition heralded the slow demise of Labor's hold on power. Labor is tied so closely to the fringe party that it suffers collateral damage from each anarchic rant from the Greens against what most of us respect. Mr Shorten distanced himself yesterday; he needs to do this more often, on substantial matters and in serious policy positions.