Apply the Kevin test

American climate change warriors want to knock down buildings and ban cars, but they would be wise to look at what happened in Australia under Kevin Rudd’s rule

Always patch test first on an inconspicuous area,” warns the label on most containers of pesticides. This is good advice, and not just for those who don’t want to ruin their clothes.

It is also a wise move for politicians who may wish to avoid destroying their entire country.

Democratic (and wannabe Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Massachusetts senator-elect Ed Markey last week) presented their resolution for a Green New Deal, which is possibly the last sane assembly of proposals ever to emerge from the US Capitol.

Among other things, the Green New Deal calls for upgrading or replacing every building in the US — from New York’s Empire State to Eugene’s Hot Chicken in Birmingham, Alabama — for “state of the art energy efficiency”.

The New York Times described the green New Deal measures as “ambitious”, a novel usage, opening bright new employment opportunities for that particular term.

The accused was found not guilty by reason of insanity, for instance. He will be confined until such time as the condition improves to a treatment facility that removes the ambition.

Every Democrat presidential candidate quickly endorsed the Green New Deal, evidently before reading further details of the plan, if in a now-deleted post at Ocasio-Cortez’s website.

These included decommissioning all US nuclear plants, adding high-speed rail links “at a scale where air travel stops becoming necessary”, replacing “every combustion-engine vehicle”, and of course the nationwide destruction or retrofitting of more than 130 million buildings.

Perhaps it would be prudent, to first patch test these ideas on an inconspicuous area.

Like, say, the block where Ocasio-Cortez lives.

Or, even easier, perhaps US Democrats could look to Australia.

Ten years ago a federal Labor government attempted to put in place a miniature version of the Green New Deal. So we’ve been down that road before.

Or, rather, we’ve been in that boat. Then-prime minister Kevin Rudd and his treasurer Wayne Swan announced the Energy Efficient Homes Package in 2009.

“...To support jobs and set Australia up for a low-carbon future, the Rudd government will install free ceiling insulation in around 2.7 million Australian homes,” a press release from Swan’s office declared.

“For a time-limited period of two and a half years, from 1 July 2009, owner-occupiers without ceiling insulation will be eligible for free product and installation (capped at $6800) simply by making a phone call.”

In many cases those calls were unnecessary! At The Daily Telegraph we first discovered something was amiss with the Energy Efficient Homes Package when our chief of staff ordered a home-delivered pizza.

To her surprise, the delivery boy also offered to provide an insulation quote.

There were only 250 registered insulation installation businesses in Australia when the package was announced. That number quickly blew out to 9000 because the government was handing out free money to installers. Pretty boy’s could pick up more in one insulation job than from a year’s worth of other jobs.

They received their rebate directly from the government rather than from home owners, who therefore had no incentive at all to check if the work had been done well or even done at all. Some settings ended up with piles of hand insulation balls thrown around. Others featured only shredded paper.

In any case, the government’s pizza boy insulation army worked at brisk speed, eager to cash in while they could.

When the difference between free jobs done reasonably well and eight jobs done in carless haste is $4600, a short amount of time represents one hell of a lot of money.

And that’s when the debates began.

Four young men were killed while installing insulation under the government’s program, three due to electrocution and one from hypothermia during the Australian summer.

Demand more workers, few of them with experience, suffered injuries and heart attacks.

Nearly 100 houses were set on fire.

A program intended to combat global warming was instead causing intense and highly localised heating. Environment Minister Peter Garrett, whose band Midnight Oil’s lead singer included 1987’s Beds Are Burning, subsequently announced the planned deregistration or suspension of 5000 installers.

These suspensions were never required.

In February 2010, one year after the Energy Efficient Homes Package was introduced, it was completely abandoned.

Speaking of egopop visionaries devised by incompetent ideologues, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez staffer Sack at Chakrabarti last week explained how her boss’s illusory summary of the Green New Deal appeared at hot site before being hastily taken down.

The summary was “an early draft that was deeply unsubstantiated” and it “got published to the website by mistake.”

So there people who wish to reshape a nation of 325 million people but can’t get it together to run the right thing online.

Patch test first on an inconspicuous area, kids. Works for clothiers. Works for nuisance climate change policyletters too.
Woman claimed ecstasy in bra was 'fake'

Drug mule's big Lycra lie busted

EXCLUSIVE: RICHARD MOORE

A TEENAGER who tried to smuggle 25 ecstasy capsules into a Sydney music festival in coffee-filled bags hidden in her bra has escaped jail.

But Lexie Rose Miller, 18, did not escape a conviction after facing Gosford Local Court yesterday where she was placed on a community corrections order for two years.

Miller, of Berkeley Vale, pleaded guilty to one count of supplying a prohibited drug with Magistrate Elizabeth Ellis admonishing the aspiring veterinary nurse.

"This was a bad mistake," Ms Ellis scolded Miller in court.

"Yeah, I know," Miller said.

An agreed statement of facts revealed Miller entered the sold out Field Day Festival with a crowd of 28,000 about 12.30pm on January 1.

But she was quickly singled out by a drug detection dog.

"The event experiences a high incidence of drug related crime, predominantly the possession and supply of prohibited 'party drugs' namely; ecstasy, cocaine, GHB, amphetamine and cannabis," the facts document stated.

"Drug detection dog Amber indicated a scent on the accused as she walked past."

Miller told police she had two capsules in her bra but when they took her to a designated search tent they found two small plastic bags with one containing 13 MDMA capsules and the other 12.

"These two bags were contained within a larger bag which she had put into a coffee located inside, which police believe was an attempt to mix (sic) the colour," the police facts stated.

"Test them, they're fake," she told police, according to the document.

"My friend told me to bring them in to the festival and try (sic) sell them."

Miller was taken to Sydney City Police station but had a medical episode and had to be transferred to St Vincent's Hospital.

Woman found with 'capsules of death'

ASHLEIGH GLEESON

A JUDGE has labelled illicit drugs as "capsules of potential death" during a sentencing hearing of a young woman found with more than 200 MDMA pills at a Sydney music festival.

Tryna Nguyen, 20, will be sentenced next month after she was found with the drugs "wasted" in several sections at Sydney Olympic Park on May 3 last year.

The reference to the word "mafia" in that dance party is highly significant considering the source from which most ecstasy tablets and illicit drugs ultimately are derived," Judge Andrew Colefax said at Parramatta District Court yesterday.

"Two hundred and one capsules of potential death"