



Time for the Greens to back off

IT appears that the Greens continue to see themselves as the moral barometer of society.

Whether it is the evils of gambling or political donations from companies not to their taste, the Greens are there at every crusading corner.

Now it is junk food and a proposed television ban on advertising these products during morning and peak television viewing times in the early evening.

It has been labelled the “Mac attack” in Parliament but it should be really called the parental attack.

The Greens run the risk of treating every parent like an idiot and usurping a role in which they have no right.

What about radio, internet and printed material? — bans like this are simply unworkable.

Jane Martin, head of the Obesity Policy Coalition, supports the Greens and was reported as saying: “It is unethical to leave children at the mercy of these marketers and . . . parents agree that government should step in and do a lot more.”

Please Ms Martin don’t speak on behalf of every parent.

This country already struggles

because people expect governments to run their lives and take responsibility for every poor decision.

It is an educational issue, not a legislative one.

And, if the Greens think every child is tucked up in bed by 9pm when the junk food advertisements are OK to air then they have clearly no idea of the real world.

This is simply poorly thought out populist politics.

There is a rational argument that all foods, in moderation, are OK.

The same for red wine. Just because one glass is regarded as medicinal doesn’t mean the whole bottle is four times as good.

The next ban we can expect is against beer and wine advertising because, in excess, they can be bad for your health.

At the last count the Greens represented about 13 per cent of the national vote.

So, far from being a party of tolerance and freedom, the Greens clearly see themselves as everyone’s social conscience and that is dangerous motherhood politics.

— MARTIN GILMOUR, editor