

# The Australian

---

## Climate sceptic ambushes ex-PM

- **Dennis Shanahan, Political editor**
- From: **The Australian**
- July 23, 2010 12:00AM

[Recommend](#)

4 people recommend this.

5 retweet

**A CLIMATE change sceptic followed Kevin Rudd into a toilet in Washington last week in the hope of flushing out the former PM on an ETS.**

But accosted as he washed his hands in the toilets of the flash Georgetown Cafe Milano, Mr Rudd left his interlocutor from conservative think tank the Cato Institute with an expletive in his ear.

While dining with an Australian friend in the Cafe Milano, Pat Michaels, the climate change warrior named in the East Anglia climate scandal emails as the man some scientists wanted to punch on the nose, spotted the former prime minister heading into the men's room and went in hot pursuit.

Mr Michaels had been tipped off about Mr Rudd's presence but didn't believe it was really him.

The senior fellow at the Cato Institute in Washington asked the man washing his hands in the toilets if he was indeed Kevin Rudd -- and started in on an emissions trading scheme and the scientific conspiracy on climate change as soon as it was confirmed.

A movable and colourful conversation ensued as Mr Rudd went out into the restaurant.

In his own words, Mr Michaels, in an article published in The Spectator Australia today, felt Mr Rudd was "confronting the devil in the men's room" and didn't take kindly to suggestions an emissions trading scheme was a waste of money.

"You can talk about this in think-tank land, but put yourself in my shoes," Mr Rudd is reported to have said to Mr Michaels. "All my scientists at CSIRO are telling me this (climate change) is a terrible problem. What could I do?"

The exchange turned colourful, according to witnesses in the restaurant, as Mr Rudd resorted to some well-worn expletives when he realised he'd been ambushed in the toilet by a sceptic tank.

Mr Michaels reports he warned Mr Rudd the CSIRO was only telling him the bad news about climate change because "the global warming gravy train would derail" and scientists would have to fly economy class.

Witnesses said Mr Rudd railed against the Cato Institute's conservative position and rudely rejected suggestions he should write for the conservative Australian Spectator now that he was on the back bench.

[Recommend](#)

4 people recommend this.

5 retweet