

## OUR NATIONAL COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN HAS HIT A SNAG!

Listen, (*and I apologise up front for being so demanding of your attention from the outset, but with social media these days, rallies and marches taking place, the click-baiting headlines of the Murdoch media, and TikTok teens taking over the world, it's the very least I could do to create some cut-through*). My point is: Listen up, because something is seriously amok.

Has anyone else noted in our attempted return to normalcy from the panic-filled pits of a pandemic that the resurgence of the very linchpin of our society is still yet to be addressed? Not a word from Daniel or Gladys. Nary a peep about it from Anastacia, Mark or Peter. Steven, Andrew and Michael are basically thriving in Covid-free utopias and I haven't heard any of them raise this issue in one of their public addresses.

Even the Aussie all-rounder, ScoMo himself has failed to make an announcement on the one national institution that brings us together as a country like none other.

So, I will address it here and now in an attempt to restore one of the most important elements of Australian society to its rightful place.

### **When will the ban be lifted on the Bunnings carpark barbecue?**

Honestly, that sausage sizzle is the backbone of our country's weekend economy, isn't it?

You may argue that it's a tool shop and not a fast food joint, but I can honestly say I've bought more sausages there than tools. Let's be honest... we all have. I've been to Bunnings on a Saturday *just* to get a sausage sandwich. I didn't even need a drill bit, or an extension cord, or even a lazy stroll down the paint aisle for a quick high while sniffing the fumes. I went purely for the magical and unbeatable combination of meat with bread and sauce.

Now you may cry, "But what about social distancing?" To which I'd reply, "Okay, you make a valid point, but I think we been *sausagial* distancing now for too long! We risk losing our national identity!"

I ask you; how can we have a return to sports, beaches and cafes but still call ourselves Australian without the availability of our national dish? How is it that we can experience sizzling stocktake sales in major department stores and not sizzling snags in a poorly ventilated carparking environment? When will our weekends return to normal?

Many of you may suggest I simply cook a sausage on my barbecue at home... but we all know that it's just not the same. Firstly, how do they get the prices so low? \$2.50 for a meal? I dare you to buy a loaf of bread and some store-bought sausages, plus a few home brand condiments... then fire up the gas bottle and factor in your hourly working rate while you heat up some meat on a grill and have it come in at

such a financial bargain! Without economies of scale it's just not possible! I know, I've tried.

Now, sure, there will be some new scenarios and situations that we'll need to consider in the cooktop comeback, but I think these can be easily addressed. I've already done some of the thinking for you.

### **Queuing:**

Many of us have already worked out the system behind the scientifically spaced out floor markers in supermarkets and shopping centres, so why can't they be adopted in this scenario? Okay, I concede that probably only about 65% of us have worked them out while some 35% of people don't understand a giant floor sign that says "*stand here or die*", but those people would simply be asked to leave the queue sans sausage. For the rest of us, simply stand on the sign and you'll be fine. (You know it works when it rhymes.)

### **Onions:**

We know they're slippery characters. They can't be trusted. They've caused troubles at Bunnings even before the virus and to be honest with you, I think we're better off without additional headaches in these challenging times. I'm sorry, but onions will be off the menu for the foreseeable future. That may make some of you cry... but having less onions will mean less tears in the long run. Especially for those chopping them.

### **Sausage spacing:**

Now that the onions have been dismissed, there will be more room on the hotplate for individual sausages to socially distance themselves as they cook. It may be overkill, but saying that each sausage has maintained a 1.5cm distance from any other sausage during the preparation process will probably help put some more nervous members of society at ease. I'll get the signs made up.

### **Sauces:**

Instead of the ludicrously overhandled sauce and mustard bottles, why can't we just introduce those individual squeeze packets for a while? Sure, they're terrible for the environment, but haven't we stopped worrying about that for the time being? The virus trumps it, right? Don't worry, I assure you we'll get back to the environment after we have a vaccine. We'll have to with all those non-reusable plastic syringes we'll need for the injections.

### **Bread handling:**

When preparing the bread station and handing out the delicious final product, perhaps the kindly workers behind the counter could wear some rubber gloves. I don't just mean during the pandemic; this is a blanket statement for all food handlers. Please wear gloves. It's weird when you don't.

Look, *(there I go again with my demanding statements)* I know there may be other issues that arise as we roll out the trestle tables once more, but we'll cross those bridges when we get to them. Right now, we need to get back to the basics because there's a bigger issue of global importance that we need to consider here. I'm just

going to put it out there. It may seem crazy, but the boldest suggestions often do at first. Please, just hear me out.

*What if carpark-cooked sausages in bread are the cure for Coronavirus?*

Now, I offer this suggestion with absolutely zero scientific knowledge. Heck, I barely passed high school. But if the President of the United States can claim that an entirely untested and difficult to pronounce medicine can irrationally cure something it was never designed to assist with, why can't I? Has anyone actually tested a scalding sausage cooked in a dimly-lit space on the virus? Probably not, due to the fact that they've been banned since this whole malarkey began. How would a scientist even get their hands on one?

All I'm saying is this: sausage sizzles may be the key to saving the Australian economy... they might help revive our flailing Aussie spirit in these tough times...and darn it... for all we know, they could possibly be the Coronavirus cure the world is desperately searching for right now. We'll never know until we try.

That's why it's time to bring back the Bunnings sausage sizzle.

Besides thousands of lives, what have we got to lose?

Troy Harvey Graham  
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