

Andrew Bolt: The party of real Liberals has died

Andrew Bolt, The Courier-Mail

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I GIVE up. What's the point of the Liberals when Malcolm Turnbull actually leads another failed Labor Government?

The Prime Minister has destroyed the Liberals so completely that I now fear even Tony Abbott can't save them. In fact, the question is no longer whether the Liberals will lose the next election but whether it will split as well.

Why would Liberal supporters keep giving money and votes to a party trashing Liberal principles and fighting for Labor ones instead?

No wonder this week's Newspoll shows support for Pauline Hanson's One Nation rising to 11 per cent, a third of the Liberal's disastrous vote, despite a furious media campaign to discredit Hanson over her party's shonky finances. Hanson is clearly flawed, but conservatives would still rather park their vote with her than with a Turnbull team so without vision, values and fight.

No wonder, because I ask again: what's the point of these Liberals?



What's the point of the Liberals when Malcolm Turnbull actually leads another failed Labor Government? Picture: Kym Smith

Consider the Turnbull Government's latest example of doing just what Labor would: its choice to replace Gillian Triggs as president of the Human Rights Commission. For years the Liberals have rightly raged against Triggs' Leftist bias and activism. Under Triggs, the commission even dragged in students who'd complained that an Aborigines-only computer room at their university was racial segregation, and got three to hand over \$5000. So you'd

think the Liberals would replace Triggs with someone who'd fight for Liberal values like free speech with the same vigour Triggs had in fighting against them. But this bunch are weak and desperate for the approval of exactly the people they should challenge.

They instead appointed academic Rosalind Croucher, head of the Law Reform Commission, so liked by the Left that Labor shadow attorney-general Mark Dreyfus "warmly" congratulated her and gushed that "she will do a great job carrying on important work of Gillian Triggs".

Is that what these Liberals really wanted? I'm afraid so, because the government did the same pre-emptive cringe when appointing the new chairman of the ABC.

The ABC, hijacked by the Left, runs an aggressive campaign to promote identity politics, same-sex marriage, multiculturalism, Muslim apologists and the global warming scare. Yet, rather than pick a new chairman who'd fight that bias, the government picked Justin Milne, a close mate of the Prime Minister, who in his first interview declared the ABC was not biased at all.



Rosalind Croucher is set to replace Gillian Triggs as Human Rights Commission president. Picture: Hollie Adams

How the Left cheered.

But everywhere Liberals see a Liberal Government doing Labor things and with the same disastrous Labor results: record debt, record spending and record electricity prices, plus higher taxes.

Turnbull has already tried to hook the super savings of the thrifty and is now demanding Labor-style extra taxes to pay for a massive Labor policy that's already blowing out: the National Disability Insurance Scheme. He is also promising to spend billions more on a

modified version of Labor's Gonski plan for funding schools. Then there's Labor-style preaching of the global warming scare. He's even trying to bring back Labor-style emissions trading or carbon tax, under the Finkel plan that would achieve Labor's aim of scrapping coal-fired power stations.

This mad plan would lift the Liberals' renewable energy target from 26 per cent to a staggering 42 per cent — close to Labor's 50 per cent target for 2030. Turnbull is meanwhile spending even more than Labor ever did, with gross debt last week reaching \$500 billion, a record Labor never matched. Desperate for cash, this week he punished banks, Labor-style, with a special tax simply because they are unpopular.



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Turnbull is also joining Labor in pushing for a race-based change to the Constitution — a disastrous concession to Labor-style identity politics. Incredibly, his deputy, Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop, this month appointed an advisory committee including former Labor MP Jennie George to figure ways to force Australian bosses to submit to United Nations rules to “remedy human rights abuses”.

In his new book, former NSW Labor minister Carl Scully says Turnbull once told him he only became a Liberal because Labor would not accept a rich businessman.

Now, under Turnbull, there is no real Liberal Government left. There are just Liberals trying to figure how best to pay for and run Labor policies.

Sadly, I now think even bringing back Abbott won't fix this. How could this former Liberal prime minister unite a party whose dominant Left has more in common with Labor leader Bill Shorten than with Abbott?

Conservatives everywhere are in despair. The Liberals are now dead to them, so who to vote for instead?

