

Tony Abbott is Liberals' only hope as voters stray from Malcolm Turnbull

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, September 3, 2017 6:00pm

Subscriber only

PARLIAMENT returns tomorrow, and so does the Turnbull government's hell: more bad polls, no hope, and lousy leadership.

It can't go on like this. When will Liberal MPs face facts? The government is in huge trouble, and that won't change soon.

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For instance, the High Court this week starts hearings into the legality of the same-sex marriage plebiscite.

If it rules the postal vote unconstitutional, given parliament has not voted to pay for it, Turnbull will be humiliated.



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull isn't offering voters anything. Picture: AAP Image/Richard Wainwright

Next month, the High Court will also hear whether five MPs, including Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, must quit for being dual nationals when elected.

This could cost the government its one-seat majority but until then, the uncertainty alone is deadly.

Meanwhile, debt keeps rising, living standards go sideways, unemployment stays high and electricity prices have doubled. Voters are cranky and Canberra offers nothing likely to make their lives easier.

Take power prices. The government doesn't even have a policy yet. Blame Turnbull, a ditherer and global warmist trying to cut both our emissions and power bills. It's terrible politics.

Consider: ministers argue the Finkel report's recommended 42.5 per cent clean energy target is better than Labor's 50 per cent. Who even understands that difference? Who's even listening?



Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce is among the MPs fronting the High Court after the citizenship scandal that engulfed parliament. Picture: Elise Derwin

TURNBULL'S EPIC BASKETBALL FAIL

Turnbull fatally prefers options to action, and has run out of time to show he gets things done. For instance, last week he listed as a "signature achievement" his Snowy 2.0 pumped-hydro scheme, even though he's merely ordered a feasibility study.

So can he win the next election? Not one MP would think so. Would another leader give the Liberals a better chance? Without one, there's none.

So, who should it be?

Julie Bishop is obviously disloyal and poor on policy. Scott Morrison is not trusted by many MPs and has not starred as Treasurer. Immigration Minister Peter Dutton is at least a conservative but is yet to show he has policy breadth.

So who? Who could win back the Liberal base now drifting to Pauline Hanson?

Who has form for out-campaigning Labor? Who already has a punch-through strategy, even if he's as unpopular as Labor's Bill Shorten? The Liberals must face these questions fast before they leave their next leader with no time to save them.

Bring back Tony Abbott.