

Andrew Bolt: We're left cold by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's lack of fight

Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun
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MALCOLM Turnbull was right: he can win the next election just by fighting Labor's global-warming crusaders on electricity prices. In fact, he and Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg have banked on it. But Turnbull is wrong: the way he and Frydenberg are fighting — timidly and erratically — is backfiring.

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Tuesday's Essential poll should shock the Prime Minister out of his fantasy that he can win this by being not quite as global-warming crazy as Labor in trying the impossible — cutting both prices and the emissions he claims cause dangerous warming.

The poll showed that far from fearing Labor, which promises a disastrous 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, or triple today's renewable power, voters fear the Liberals instead. Just 19 per cent think Turnbull's government would cut electricity prices, while 28 per cent thought Labor would. A third, though, think both are hopeless.

Ain't that the truth. Thanks to both sides, your power bills have doubled in a decade and now the Australian Energy Market Operator warns we've closed so many coal-fired power stations — seven under the Liberals — that we also risk running out of electricity in summer.



Malcolm Turnbull is a warmist whose policies are little different from Labor's. Picture: Kym Smith

It is insane that we face electricity shortages in a country with huge supplies of coal, uranium and gas, but green superstitions and weak politicians have achieved the bizarre.

One green superstition is that we're suffering a dangerous man-made global warming that Australia can help stop by slashing its emissions — and the gain is worth the pain. Almost every syllable is false. The little warming we've seen in the past two decades, some of it natural, has produced none of the predicted disasters.

Here we've had fewer cyclones, record crops and healthy dams. Even the two hurricanes that have just hit the US are actually the first big ones after 12 unusually quiet years.

Moreover, Australia's emissions are so small that no cuts can make any measurable difference to the climate. But look at the pain we've inflicted with our warming schemes, as useless as the indulgences medieval sinners bought from priests to stop burning in Hell.

The higher power prices caused by politicians forcing us to use expensive wind and solar power instead mean poorer Australians can't even afford to heat their homes and factories have been sent broke.

That we have done that is a scandal. That so few politicians even dare call out this fraud is humiliating.

But until Turnbull finds the guts to do it, Australia's power prices will keep climbing and the Liberals will keep losing.



Six months ago Turnbull didn't lift a finger to stop Victoria's giant Hazelwood coal-fired power station from closing. Picture: AAP

Here is the problem in a nutshell — a line from a Turnbull media release in March last year: “Clean energy is central to the government's strategy to address climate change and meet our emissions reduction targets.” See, Turnbull is a warmist whose policies are little different from Labor's. Right now, for instance, he is considering adopting a 42 per cent clean energy target recommended by his Chief Scientist.

That would saddle the Liberals with a policy voters will think is much like Labor's 50 per cent renewable energy target. Worse, since Turnbull keeps preaching the need for “clean” energy to stop a warming disaster, his policy will seem the weaker.

Belatedly, Turnbull now realises he must show he's not religiously anti-coal, after all. Six months ago he didn't lift a finger to stop Victoria's giant Hazelwood coal-fired power station from closing, but now he's trying everything from threats to handouts to force AGL to keep open its even bigger Liddell coal-fired power station in NSW, planned to close in 2022.

But his attempts have been so haphazard — and so far unsuccessful — that he comes across as a policy flake rather than a man of conviction.

Yet Turnbull could still be exactly the leader to fight the warming madness that has brought us to this electricity disaster, although it will take guts and months of hard slog. He has to say that although he thinks man's emissions contribute to global warming, he's a businessman and knows a bad deal when he sees one.

Our warming policies are the ultimate bad deal. All those subsidies to wind and solar farms and all those renewable energy targets to force us to buy their electricity cost us at least \$5 billion a year. And for what? No gain to the climate, while the poor shiver and Australians lose their jobs.

And Labor's policies threaten much worse. But to win this battle Turnbull must fight and right now he's hardly started.