

Turnbull's policies need more detail (Letter published in AFR, 11 Sept 2017. Bits in square brackets deleted by Ed)

Malcolm Turnbull acknowledged at last Friday's Country Liberal Party conference in Darwin that there is an energy crisis but wrongly accused Bill Shorten as responsible for it. [As former adviser to Tony Abbott, Peta Credlin, writes today Turnbull "must come up with a policy to set against Labor". Unless he does so, it is unlikely the Coalition will reverse its sizeable current electoral deficit before the next election.]

[He] Turnbull could head in the right direction by announcing a reduction in Australia's voluntary emissions target of 26-28 per cent by 2030 set in Paris in 2015. Better would be a rate more consistent with that of our new defence ally, South Korea, or Russia's. Both these target a decrease of about 10 per cent, which should be achievable through increased efficiency rather than the economically damaging emissions reductions we now target. [Such an announcement would likely be supported by Tony Abbott, who has seemingly changed the approach he adopted when prime minister and will soon be addressing a UK think-tank on climate policy.]

Turnbull has also indicated a sensible new approach of trying to keep coal-fired generators in business for at least another 10 years. But would this be long enough to maintain investment in such generators? The electorate needs a detailed explanation of this new policy and any costs to taxpayers.

Yours faithfully

Des Moore, South Yarra, Vic