

Peter Dutton repeats support for Malcolm Turnbull as PM



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack and Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton in question time during the week. Picture: AAP
An hour ago August 18, 2018

Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton has repeated his support for Malcolm Turnbull as Prime Minister and Liberal leader after reports that Mr Dutton is weighing a challenge for the leadership.

Mr Turnbull is under internal pressure, most recently over continuing deliberations on energy security, and a radio interview in which Mr Dutton said further Coalition government disagreements could lead to his resignation from cabinet.

But on Saturday Mr Dutton tweeted no change.

“In relation to media stories today, just to make very clear, the Prime Minister has my support and I support the policies of the Government. My position hasn’t changed from my comments last Thursday,” Mr Dutton tweeted.

Greens MP Adam Bandt tweeted in response: “When Peter Dutton is prime minister, it’s good to know we’ll have a Labor opposition who will continue to swiftly pass his refugee and law & order bills through Parliament.”

Mr Turnbull is considering changes to the National Energy Guarantee in a bid to quell a revolt over the Liberal leadership.

While senior government members insist there is no challenge in the wind, the Prime Minister is under intense pressure not to legislate Australia's 26 per cent cut to emissions by 2030 pledged under the Paris agreement.