

## **Turnbull's tweets are inflicting damage on himself**

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Now we know what really motivates Malcolm Turnbull. His tweets from New York make it clear: to foment as much trouble as he can; to undermine his successor; to take revenge on Peter Dutton; and to vent his spleen on a party that rejected his attempt to make it just another takeover target to be moulded in his own image. And what an irony it is that he should now be exposed in this way while using social media. The only problem for the ex-emperor is that his tweets have inflicted more damage on himself than on those he has decided are his enemies.

But Turnbull's tweets may have given Liberal sympathisers and voters a cause to fight for, a cause that was missing under Turnbull's ramshackle empire before it fell apart. The new cause should be to reject his brazen attempt to destabilise the Liberal Party and get behind Scott Morrison with enthusiasm. I might even have to consider voting for them.

**Neil Brown, Melbourne, Vic**

It is little surprise that Malcolm Turnbull now shows no dignity in his efforts to undermine the very party that placed upon him the honour and privilege to lead as prime minister. This former republican and rejected Labor candidate is damning himself in pathetically deserting to the US to emit his barbs of destruction.

**Mal Alexander, Vermont, Vic**

Pamela Williams's excellent analysis ("Inside the Libs' war rooms", 14/9) may have missed making the point that Turnbull clearly shot himself in the foot. It would seem that it was not just his attempt to move the party too far to the left, but his lack of political judgment that tipped the balance.

He made a huge mistake in elevating an almost certainly unwinnable by-election (Longman) to a Shorten-Turnbull test, he then called a spill that demonstrated his support within the parliamentary party was wafer thin. He then called for a spill motion, signed by a majority of MPs, and said if that happened he would not stand. If he really wanted to see off the challenge he should have stood. He gave MPs no choice but to choose between the conservatives and the moderates.

His lack of judgment, that was already disquieting party members and commentators, was demonstrated in spades. In the end, MPs had to elevate loyalty to the party and electoral success above loyalty to the leader.

**John Haslem, Catalina, NSW**

If Australia needed any further evidence that the Liberal Party did the right thing in replacing Malcolm Turnbull, all they need do is look at his actions during the spill and in subsequent weeks. Not a word of thanks to the Liberal Party for elevating him to the position of PM and now he is actively undermining the excellent work being done by Scott Morrison to bring the party together, something Turnbull demonstrably failed to do.

**Brian Barker, East Brisbane, Qld**

The history on my side of politics reveals that the overthrow of two PMs is the result of a mix of factors. Justifications abound, but one thing is clear — self-interest and treachery are always potent ingredients. Principles are subsumed by the race to be on the winning side.

Pamela Williams writes that MPs close to Julie Bishop say she was unaware that the moderates would abandon her. She was left high and dry. Appalling. How was it that her supposed allies abandoned common standards of decency?

Beyond her commitments to the Liberal Party and her electorate, Bishop admirably represented our nation's interests on the world stage. There will be many shaking their heads in disbelief and wondering why she was treated with such disrespect.

**Jennie George, Mollymook, NSW**

We are again experiencing the divisive natures of Liberal federal politicians showing their vengefulness and their disunity. We who volunteered to give our time and personal resources to support the election of these politicians have been left unappreciated, and often ignored.

We maintained and further developed the party infrastructure, raised funds and campaigned for them, and even stood in the rain for them. No thanks from them. Scott Morrison is prepared to lead, and these people should give him every opportunity to succeed. Our efforts would then not be in vain.

**P. Clarke, Corinda, Qld**