



Malcolm Turnbull

TURNBULL'S REVENGE: TRULY, MADLY, DEEPLY

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Malcolm Turnbull is madly desperate to destroy the Liberals to show they were wrong to sack him: Turnbull yesterday urged senior Liberal Party figures to defy Scott Morrison by voting against a plan to prevent conservative MP Craig Kelly losing preselection, saying the Prime Minister just wanted to 'keep his arse' in his prime ministerial car.

The brazen power play was calculated to trigger an early federal election, with Mr Turnbull claiming such a move would help the Berejiklian government avoid facing an anti-Coalition backlash and losing office in March. Mr Turnbull urged several moderates, including NSW minister Matt Kean who is on the Liberal state executive, to repudiate Mr Morrison by voting against the deal to save Mr Kelly, which would prompt him to become an independent MP.

The ousted prime minister told Mr Kean that if Mr Kelly moved to the crossbench it would “force Morrison to an early election and that will save the Berejiklian government”. “We should force Scott to an early election because all he’s about is keeping his arse on C1”, Mr Turnbull said, referring to the prime minister’s commonwealth car.

Mr Turnbull told Mr Kean that he and Mr Morrison in government had agreed to go to an election on March 2 — three weeks before the NSW government election — but the Prime Minister was now reneging. The moderates on the executive should not support Mr Kelly as a “matter of principle” as Mr Kelly was the “most destructive member of the government”, Mr Turnbull told Mr Kean, adding that there was “no bigger climate change denier than Craig Kelly, apart from Tony Abbott”.

Can anyone at all still doubt that Turnbull simply wants the Liberals to be destroyed, and is doing all he can to ensure it is?

I've said before that Turnbull, whose mother abandoned him as a boy, has rejection issues and a history of trying to tear down those who have deserted or sacked him. But this is the most operative example yet.

Consider.

Turnbull is a hypocrite. As Prime Minister he intervened to save Kelly, and now attacks Morrison for doing the same.

Turnbull is not, er, frank, to put it mildly. On the ABC this morning, he claimed he was just trying to save the NSW Government by forcing the Morrison Government to an election before it, but nothing he is saying about the Liberals now helps either. Turnbull is, as I say, not frank. He refused to discuss whether he'd indeed said “We should force Scott to an early election because all he's about is keeping his arse on C1”, but on the ABC insisted he'd not criticised Morrison.

Turnbull really is not frank. He told the ABC it would be “manifestly in the interests” of the Morrison Government to rush to an early election after Christmas, when he knows it would be destroyed - and when his private pitch to MPs was that he actually wanted the NSW Government saved instead.

No, Turnbull really, really is not frank. Who believes a single word?: “I have not bad mouthed the Prime Minister. I have given Scott Morrison considerable support and I've given him considerable advice.”

Turnbull is delusional. He claims this is about saving the NSW Government, but his repeated attacks - again this morning - on Kelly and even Finance Minister Matthias Cormann as those who helped to dump him shows how maddened he is for vengeance.

Turnbull is trying to destroy the Liberals as a party of the right. His reported comments see he is determined, for instance, to destroy any MP who has put cutting electricity prices above cutting global warming gasses.

Turnbull is projecting: he claims the Liberals imply need to take responsibility for the consequences of sacking him, primarily their terrible poll numbers. He himself takes zero responsibility for the consequences of his work to destroy the Liberals.

Turnbull is a hypocrite (again). He says the Liberals must, in effect, take responsibility for his own sabotage, as one of the consequences of sacking him. He never once took that responsibility for Tony Abbott's response to being knifed by Turnbull.

Turnbull is hell-bent. He called an early byelection for his seat that he knew the Liberals would struggle to win; he pointedly refused to support the Liberal candidate during that campaign; he leaked private conversations with Rupert Murdoch that would damage the Liberals; someone leaked Cabinet decisions that would harm Morrison; Turnbull has publicly attacked the Liberals over global warming; Turnbull has publicly smashed every Liberal MP who'd concluded he was a loser after 48 losing Newspolls and removed him; allies have moved to kick out key conservative MPs (Abbott, Kelly, Jim Molan; he has lobbied MPs to refer challenger Peter Dutton to the High Court to get him kicked out; he has followed an Instagram account dedicated to removing Abbott from Parliament; he refused today to say if he'd advised close ally Julia Banks when she quit the Liberals to sit as an independent; and more.

And that's just what we know publicly of Turnbull's whiteanting. What is yet to emerge? What is Turnbull's connection to the business figures now looking to bankroll an independent MP to run against Abbott?

Morrison has for more than three months refused to criticise Turnbull or distance himself from him in order to buy peace. I warned from the start that this would fail. Voters would not understand why Turnbull had to go and why Morrison was better. And it ignored a fundamental fact: that Turnbull would do everything he could to make Morrison fail.

The fact that much of the mainstream media - not least the ABC - is cheering on Turnbull and blaming the Liberals for his jihad should not blind the Liberals to the truth or stop them from calling out Turnbull.

Of course the ABC wants the Liberals destroyed. Of course Turnbull is their man. But Turnbull's crusade is not to build a better Liberal party. It is to destroy it.