

Dutton simply said Libs couldn't win under Turnbull

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The significance of Peter Dutton's exposure of the problems experienced by the Coalition under Malcolm Turnbull's leadership has received a limited understanding.

Your editorial rightly points to Turnbull's failure to "seize opportunities to hammer the opposition" ("A political year of turmoil with uncertainty ahead", 31/12). But Dutton also said that under Turnbull "the Liberal Party had become unrecognisable to our supporters and people who had voted for us for years had switched off". This led to 38 unfavourable Newspolls and meant the Coalition would not have been re-elected.

The decks are now cleared to develop policies that distinguish Scott Morrison's Coalition from Turnbull's imposed policies. Morrison has already modified energy policy from being the "greatest moral challenge of our time" to one that can have a more believable scientific base. If Morrison can reduce electricity prices that could be an election winner.

Des Moore, South Yarra, Vic

I find it amazing that Peter Dutton has criticised Malcolm Turnbull who apparently is not a politician. People want idealism, not just realism. Rather than politicians looking after themselves, shouldn't they be looking to the future? Dutton's comments show how the right-wing of the Liberal Party is out of touch.

The silly justification for this was the Coalition was headed for a devastating defeat under Turnbull. Is this for real? The Coalition is headed for a devastating defeat no matter who leads the parties. Scott Morrison cannot resurrect faith in the present government no matter how hard he tries. Bill Shorten will be the next prime minister mainly because the Liberal Party has made this happen.

Chris Hemingway, Caboolture, Qld

Peter Dutton was perfectly correct to speak out about Malcolm Turnbull and Julia Banks. The latter, in particular, has been romancing the media with her self-indulgent bitterness and inflated ego, obviously hoping she is going to be lauded by business and secure a good job when her limited political career comes to an end in May.

Some people, it seems, hate the truth, especially these days when it is spoken by a male. It's time men retaliated against the feminists who think the world owes them a living. We need a few more politicians such as Dutton in parliament.

John George, Terrigal, NSW

Peter Dutton's effort to rewrite the history of the recent change of PM is a poor excuse from a politician who in the main (along with a few others) is responsible for the parlous position in which the Liberal Party finds itself. Dutton and the party were told what the ramifications were in respect to the then prime minister — let alone the fallout from previous changes.

Trevor Ruland, Dianella, WA

Since the replacement of Malcolm Turnbull by Scott Morrison, the interminable question has been, why was Turnbull axed as leader. Peter Dutton, in his explosive assessment of the former leader, has now informed the ignorant, especially Bill Shorten, why Turnbull was replaced.

Turnbull should have been replaced after the disastrous 2016 election, when he lost 14 seats. He strolled around the electorates, finishing the day early, and thought he would win magnificently. The Coalition would not be in this parlous position today if it had acted earlier. The government should now proceed with determination to win the next election, and it can if it continues to explain the perils of a Shorten government.

Lesley Beckhouse, Queanbeyan, NSW

Most conservatives would agree with Peter Dutton's comments on why Malcolm Turnbull was replaced — something Scott Morrison has been unable to communicate.

The opportunity is there for Morrison to make a new year's resolution to change his ideas. But unfortunately he has shown few political skills allowing Bill Shorten to outmanoeuvre him on most political fronts.

Morrison should seek the support of Tony Abbott, a proven electoral winner, by giving him a senior role in government. Those in cabinet at present, apart from Dutton, have just sat on their hands. It is time for Morrison to show courage and be prepared to seek advice from those who have shown how to defeat Labor.

Labor's record of mismanagement and reliance on the Greens has been a disaster — and will be again if it gets hold of the Treasury reins.

Cecil White, Yamba, NSW