

Terry McCrann: Federal election a no-win situation for the Coalition

Terry McCrann, Herald Sun

April 11, 2019 8:30pm

Subscriber only

One thing is absolutely crystal clear about the election.

If Labor wins — as to me, seems certain — it will hit the ground running, straight after the election, in June.

The man who would be treasurer in a Shorten Labor government — and was, briefly, treasurer in the dying days of the (second) Rudd Labor government in 2013 — Chris Bowen, made that absolutely clear in his Press Club speech on Wednesday.

FEDERAL ELECTION 2019: WHO WILL WIN YOUR SEAT

MORRISON SNOOZE-FEST WON'T DEFEAT SHORTEN

He, the prime minister and the broader government will do so with the most Left-wing tax-the-rich and indeed even the not-so-rich policies that we have seen from any Labor government since Gough Whitlam's in 1972.

In 2007 Kevin Rudd promised to be John Howard-lite. In 1983 the Hawke government started with an effort to bring business and unions and politicians — not just Labor politicians — together.

Under treasurer Paul Keating it also delivered the sort of economic reforms that could have been delivered by a Coalition government — in fact were totally supported by the then Coalition opposition — and set us, after the - “recession we had to have”, on the path to 28 years of economic growth.

But this coming Shorten-Bowen government will have none of any of that.

It has a program to dramatically increase taxes on negative gearing, franking credits, capital gains and trusts.

It will not cut the company tax on big companies from 30 per cent, which is now very uncompetitive, with the US down to 21 per cent, and will revisit the cut on medium-sized companies.

It will also further squeeze especially small and medium-sized businesses with the so-called “living wage”.

And then there’s the whole issue of power prices, which will just continue to increase and increase at an accelerating rate under Labor’s so-called climate change policy.

We will get all this because there will be a de facto Labor-Green coalition, at least to push all this through the Senate where they will have either a combined majority or be within one or at most two votes of one.

Bowen wants to try with the “old” Senate in June, but he will get the new Senate on July 1.

I have to say that, as an analyst, there really is no point in me trying to analyse the government’s proposals.

The big reason is that they are not going to win. But even if they did craft a miracle, they wouldn’t get their proposals through the Senate and into law.

This is what makes the two alternative outcomes so very and dangerously different. The government can’t really win even if it does. But Labor really will win. Be under absolutely no misapprehension, we will get what Labor is proposing.