

Tony's troubles don't end with Bishop's burqas

By Bob Ellis

3 October 2014



(Image by John Graham)

With his Government in chaos over banning the burqa and a litany of other woes confronting him, unremittently unpopular Prime Minister Tony Abbott is in deep trouble, writes [Bob Ellis](#).

SPEAKER BRONWYN BISHOP, [who supported apartheid](#), may [not back down on the burqa](#) as quickly as Abbott wants.

Nor will she resign as readily as [the nation might hope](#) when her Leader asks her to.

She may take the view that she is accountable only to Parliament and hold her position, amid widening derision, until it sits.

This will bring into question all of Brandis's 'national security' legislation — especially that part which [imprisons for ten years journalists](#) who, [like Andrew Wilkie](#), reveal government stupidity.

Stupidity as stupid as this.

Is Abbott himself now in trouble? I think he is.

He is [taking us into a war](#) of which he allowed [no parliamentary discussion](#).

He [spoke of 'Team Australia'](#) yet allowed a ['sin bin' as ludicrous as this](#), and he may not be able to cancel it until Parliament overthrows his defiant, unfair, tyrannous and, some would say, ratbag Speaker.

His competence, always in question ([Costello predicted](#) he would be a disaster), is now shown to be, well, further in question. He dare not move his ministry round, so low is his support [in Cabinet](#).

Dead in the water.LAB defeats LNP Budget cruelty.Government in humiliating retreat.
[#auspol](http://t.co/ho3pQqPnhu)

— chris murphy (@chrismurphys) [October 2, 2014](#)

And he [can't get his Budget through](#).

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have to consider his position — and
[Malcolm Turnbull his](#).

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