

Barton Deakin Brief: Change of Liberal Leadership

24 August 2018

Today the Liberal Party Room met to determine the leadership of the Liberal Party. The party room meeting was called following the delivery of a petition to the Prime Minister signed by the majority of the party room. The party room meeting is the second in a week, following a surprise leadership spill on Tuesday.

Following today's successful spill motion, the Hon Scott Morrison MP was elected by the party to become the 30th Prime Minister of Australia.

This Barton Deakin Brief outlines the change in Liberal Party leadership and provides a biography of the Hon Scott Morrison MP, Australia's 30th Prime Minister.

Party Room Meeting

The party room meeting was held today at 12.20pm following the tabling of a petition signed by 43 Liberal party parliamentarians, a majority of the 85 Liberal MPs and Senators. The motion to spill the leadership was passed 45-40. The positions of Leader and Deputy Leader were vacated and elections were held. The Hon Scott Morrison MP, The Hon Julie Bishop MP, and the Hon Peter Dutton MP nominated for the position of Leader. Ms Bishop was eliminated on the first ballot. The Hon Scott Morrison MP was then elected with 45 votes to Peter Dutton's 40.

The position of Deputy was contested by the Hon Greg Hunt MP, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, and the Hon Steven Ciobo MP. The Hon Josh Frydenberg MP was elected as Deputy Leader with an absolute majority.

Mr Morrison will be sworn in as Prime Minister by the Governor General. Mr Frydenberg will become Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party and will have the prerogative to select a Cabinet ministry of his choice.

Parliamentary Impacts

Prime Minister Turnbull has indicated he will resign from the Parliament, causing a by-election in the seat of Wentworth. The seat of Wentworth is currently held by Mr Turnbull on a 17.7% margin.

The Prime Minister will appoint a Cabinet over the course of the weekend. Parliament resumes sitting on September 10, 2018.



The Hon Scott Morrison MP

Prime Minister of Australia

Member of the Liberal Party

Federal Member for Cook, New South Wales



Scott Morrison was elected to the House of Representatives in 2007, representing the electorate of Cook in New South Wales. Mr Morrison won the pre-selection for the blue-ribbon South Sydney seat following the resignation of Bruce Baird. Prior to entering politics, Mr Morrison held senior manager roles for a number of industry bodies and agencies in the Tourism and Property sector. Mr Morrison also served as the NSW Liberal Party state director from 2000-2004. He is a graduate of Sydney Boys High School and UNSW, where he studied applied economic geography.

Mr Morrison was raised in Bronte, Sydney. The son of a police officer, his father eventually ran for council and became the Mayor of Waverly.

Mr Morrison has been the Treasurer since September 2015, following the election of Malcolm Turnbull as Leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister. As Treasurer he has spearheaded a number of policies including prosecuting personal income tax cuts, implementing wide-ranging reforms in the finance and banking sector, fully-funding the NDIS, and curtailing the growth of deficit spending.

In the Abbott Government Morrison was Minister for Social Services, holding the position from 2014 to 2015. Before this he was the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection (2013-2014), where he oversaw the design and implementation of the Operation Sovereign Borders policy alongside his future Senate colleague General Major Jim Molan AO.

In Opposition, Mr Morrison was promoted to the Shadow Ministry after only a short period on the backbench. He was appointed Shadow Minister for Housing and Development (2008-2009) and then Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship (2009-2013), until the election of the Abbott Government. In 2010, he was given the additional responsibility as Minister for Productivity and Population, but did not take this portfolio into government.

To access The Hon Scott Morrison MP's personal website, click [here](#).

The Hon Scott Morrison MP's parliamentary speeches can be accessed [here](#).

Further Information

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