

Greens back Libs against ALP

The Turnbull Government has clinched the Greens' support to send Labor MPs to the High Court as both sides escalate the war on their dual-citizenship.

The Coalition has named four Opposition members whom it suspects were ineligible to stand for election, including one who has admitted that her renunciation was not confirmed on time.

Liberal frontbencher Craig Laundy said the ALP was being "slimy" and "a pack of hypocrites" for refusing to refer them to the court.

"If [Bill] Shorten doesn't act to maintain the integrity of the Parliament, the Government will act when it resumes in a couple of weeks time," he told AM on ABC.

With [Nationals leader Barnaby Joyce](#) and [Liberal John Alexander](#) facing by-elections, the Government would only have 73 votes in the Lower House. That is one short of a 74-vote majority needed to guarantee the referral of Labor MPs.

But Greens leader Richard Di Natale confirmed that its Lower House member Adam Bandt would back the move (12 Nov 2017).

"If the Government or the Labor Party refer individuals to the High Court, we'll support all of those referrals," he said. "We believe for anybody where there is a question mark, they should be referred and the issue should be sorted out quick-smart."

Nameless Opposition sources had threatened retaliation against such a "declaration of war".

The Greens drew the anger of ALP power-broker Anthony Albanese with suggestions that the Governor-General be asked to intervene, raising painful echoes of the 1975 dismissal of the Whitlam Labor Government.

Tasmanian [Labor MP Justine Keay](#) has conceded the renunciation of her UK citizenship was not confirmed until July 11 last year — nine days after the election.

'PARTISAN THUGGERY'

Queenslander Susan Lamb, along with West Australians Madeleine King and Josh Wilson have refused to say when British authorities finalised their applications.

"Every single one of them took steps to renounce," said Labor Senate Leader Penny Wong, describing Malcolm Turnbull's threat of unilateral referrals as "partisan thuggery".

"[It's] a dangerous new ploy ... from a man desperate to retain power," she said.

The Opposition on Sunday warned the Government it had ["the ammo to go nuclear" in a tit for tat referral war](#). A source said it would go after the "foreign five" — Liberals Julia Banks, Nola Marino, Alex Hawke, Tony Pasin and Ann Sudmalis.

The ABC claimed that another MP embroiled in Federal Parliament's dual-citizenship saga was warned as early as 2015 to dump her UK citizenship. Nick Xenophon Team's member for the South Australian seat of Mayo Rebekha Sharkie was announced as the party's candidate in December 2015. [Ms Sharkie applied to end her UK citizenship in mid-April 2016](#), but the renunciation was only confirmed in late-June — after the close of nominations.

NXT senator Stirling Griff, who was involved in the day-to-day running of the party's campaign, said candidates were advised to renounce any other citizenship months before the election was called.

"We originally asked our candidates, all the candidates around Australia, to look at their personal situation — I think it would have been November or December in the previous year," he said.

"We asked her and the other candidates to do that many, many months earlier.

"There's probably a reason why she perhaps might have left it to the last minute."

Senator Griff said he thought Ms Sharkie would be in "quite a good position" if her case was referred to the High Court, because she started the renunciation process well before nominations closed.

Ms Sharkie was contacted for comment.

Liberal Craig Laundy said the NXT politician was "gone".

"If what Stirling says is true, Rebekha has an obligation I would think to either resign ... or refer herself to the High Court."

[AM - http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-13/citizenship-crisis-greens-back-move-to-refer-labor-to-high-court/9143080](http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-11-13/citizenship-crisis-greens-back-move-to-refer-labor-to-high-court/9143080)

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