

# The West Australian

## CHALLENGE ON!

# PRIME ANGUS

KATINA CURTIS & ANDREW GREENE

Angus Taylor has quit the shadow ministry, declaring the Liberal Party is in the worst position it has been since it was formed, as he prepares to challenge Sussan Ley for the leadership.

Mr Taylor — who narrowly lost the leadership to Ms Ley in a contest after last May's election — said he did not believe the Liberal leader was "in a position to be able to lead the party as it needs to be led".

He informed Ms Ley he was resigning during a four-minute meeting in her office on Tuesday night, with a special partyroom meeting expected on Friday to determine who will lead the party.

Asked about the possible timing of a leadership challenge, Mr Taylor said: "This is about my resignation."

In a later written statement, he said: "In the period ahead, I will be consulting closely with col-

leagues about the future of our party."

A key supporter of Mr Taylor said he expected Ms Ley would be offered a frontbench spot when her leadership was over.

Mr Taylor's resignation is expected to be followed by a swath of other frontbenchers from the party's right faction, freeing them up to start canvassing their colleagues.

"We can't mince words," Mr Taylor told reporters after meeting Ms Ley.

"The Liberal Party is in the worst position it has been since 1944 when the party was formed. That is a confronting reality and we cannot ignore it.

"Australians want better from the Liberal Party: our supporters, those who voted for us and those who might have voted for us at the last election, as well as Australians more generally."

He said the party needed strong leadership and a "courageous focus" on its values.

REPORT P8-9



Picture: Iain Gillespie

# BIG VIC ENERGY

## HERO'S TRIPLE-O CALL

### Is there no limit to Austin's powers?

JESSICA PAGE & MADELIN HAYES

Heroic Austin Appelbee has been praised for his calmness under pressure after police released audio of his remarkable triple-0 call.

The 13-year-old had already hit headlines around the globe when he endured a 4km swim and a 2km run, to raise the alarm after he and his family had drifted out to sea while holidaying in WA's South West.

Police on Wednesday praised his poise during

the lifesaving call — despite him detailing his own fears that he was suffering from heat stroke and hypothermia — remarking on his extraordinary "fortitude and resilience".

In the call the teenager calmly details his family's ordeal as the operator gathers vital information that later led to the helicopter rescue of his younger brother Beau, sister Grace and the trio's mother Joanne.

FULL REPORT PAGE 3

## Cocky interlopers swan into town for historic clash but our stars are ready to knock them down a peg

GLEN QUARTERMAIN

The AFL Origin stars have arrived and the Vics were full of the cockiness that has made them despised for generations.

Ahead of Saturday's blockbuster at Optus Stadium, Victorian skipper Max Gawn confidently declared the game was already over. "I think we'll win," he said.

Victorian coach Chris Scott and superstar Nick Daicos, pictured, were also all smiles after touching

down at Perth airport, probably already planning their after-party.

But while the Big V think it's a foregone conclusion, chirpy Chad Warner warned that the underdog Black Swans are ripe to upset the apple cart. Kysaiah Pickett and Charlie Cameron, right, didn't look too worried, either.

REPORTS P4-5

