

Letters

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Spark and spontaneity missing in delivery

Tony Walker in his article on Bill Shorten (“Questions remain about Shorten’s suitability”, *AFR*, October 15) was certainly correct when he said that Julia Gillard’s “[speaking] delivery turned people off”.

What we all will come to realise over the next few months is that Shorten’s speaking will also turn people off.

Last Sunday in a brief interview on the ABC’s news broadcast with political editor Mark Simkin, Shorten came across as scripted and uninspiring. This is unfortunate for Shorten, it being one of his first major media appearances as leader.

My read on Shorten is this: He has developed a firm, hand-on-the-tiller, control of his words, voice, face and body language. So much so, that he’s deadened any freshness in his delivery that could come from spontaneity in the moment.

There’s no spark to draw in the listener.

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