



STATEMENT

**RICHARD MARLES
SHADOW MINISTER FOR IMMIGRATION AND BORDER
PROTECTION
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

PETER DUTTON'S AUSTRALIAN BORDER FARCE

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton needs to come out of hiding and provide an explanation for the shambles that has seen a cross agency operation compromised and a key Government agency left red faced.

Opposition Immigration and Border Protection spokesperson Richard Marles said the Abbott Government's over zealous handling in announcing an upcoming joint agency operation was at best clumsy and at worst shambolic.

"This has been incredibly badly handled and Peter Dutton needs to immediately come clean on how this announcement was so botched," said Mr Marles.

"There is no question that there is an appropriate role for the Government's newly established Australian Border Force to be playing in cracking down on visa fraud.

"We support those efforts – but what we have witnessed in the last six hours has been a complete debacle on Peter Dutton's watch.

"Mr Dutton needs to immediately explain to the community what on earth has transpired.

"Who sanctioned this announcement being made, what was its purpose, who called for its retraction and who is responsible for compromising this operation?" Mr Marles queried.

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