



MEDIA RELEASE

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

**DUTTON'S DUMPING FROM NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE IS CAUSE
FOR CONCERN**

The decision by Malcolm Turnbull to expel Immigration and Border Protection Minister Peter Dutton from the Government's powerful National Security Committee (NSC) is a worrying sign that Mr Turnbull is prepared to engage in political payback at the expense of Australia's national security.

The notion that the Minister responsible for the integrity of our borders doesn't form part of NSC is naïve and displays an alarming lack of judgment about Australia's security issues on the part of Mr Turnbull.

The Australian Government describes the National Security Committee as focussing on major international security issues of strategic importance to Australia, border protection policy, national responses to developing situations (either domestic or international) and classified matters relating to aspects of operation and activities of the Australian Intelligence Community.

It makes absolutely no sense that given its core business includes border protection policy, the person responsible for drafting and implementing that policy is frozen out.

Australia's national security should be above party room vendettas. Mr Dutton should be immediately returned as a permanent member of the NSC.

Labor has consistently demonstrated a bipartisan approach to matters of national security, it is concerning that Mr Turnbull can't bring that same mature and sensible approach to his own newly minted team.

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