



STATEMENT

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

**PETER DUTTON MUST RESPOND TO REPORTS OF ASYLUM SEEKER
ARRIVAL**

There are growing reports an asylum seeker vessel came within less than a kilometre of Christmas Island early this morning.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton must immediately detail what has taken place off Christmas Island and whether the Australian Navy has intercepted a vessel containing asylum seekers.

If these reports are true, Mr Dutton must properly and accurately detail what refugee assessment process is being undertaken in regard to any asylum seekers that have been intercepted in Australian territorial waters and provide an assurance that Australia is complying with its international obligations in respect of refugees.

It is unacceptable for this Liberal Government to refuse to answer questions about this reported vessel and instead continue to peddle the phrase "operational matters" - this is nothing more than a tired, lazy slogan for suppressing facts from the Australian community.

FRIDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2015