

Labor



**TRANSCRIPT** | WE'LL PUT  
PEOPLE FIRST

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES  
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE  
MEMBER FOR CORIO**

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT  
TV INTERVIEW  
TODAY SHOW  
FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**KARL STEFANOVIC:** Joining us now is Christopher Pyne and Shadow Defence Minister Richard Marles good morning chaps nice to see you all.

**CHRISTOPER PYNE:** Good morning Karl and welcome Richard.

**RICHARD MARLES, SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE:** Good morning Karl, good morning Christopher

**STEFANOVIC:** Well Christopher first up are you planning to ban Muslim immigration like sixty percent of Liberal voters want you to do?

**PYNE:** No we are certainly not going to do that, we believe in a non-discriminatory immigration policy. What that poll reflects I think is that people are worried about their safety when they see the television or read the newspapers and hear Islamic State or Al-Qaeda or any of these other terrorist organisations making dire threats against the West and against Australia, obviously it makes them nervous and I perfectly understand that and they have been nervous for some time not just since the arrival of One Nation back in the national parliament and that's why the Government and the Opposition have to keep reassuring people about the strength of our borders and national security, putting in place the measures to protect us as much as we possibly can, which we have been doing for the last three and a bit years.

**STEFANOVIC:** Okay Richard, 40 percent, a surprising figure I reckon. 40 percent of Labor voters in that survey want the same ban.

**MARLES:** Look I think it's a really concerning survey, but what it says to me is that we have to have leadership in this country and Christopher talks about reassurance, there is no reassurance when you've got an Immigration Minister who talks about illiterate, innumerate refugees coming to this country stealing our jobs and being on the doll, now he said that during the election campaign and if you want to give people a sense of confidence about our multicultural society we've got to see leadership from our government.

**STEFANOVIC:** Christopher the PM completely fangirled over Barack Obama at the UN, but then sounded more like Tony Abbott than ever before on Immigration, isn't he having a bob each way?

**PYNE:** Well Malcolm Turnbull and the Government are absolutely committed to one thing and that is strong borders, we repaired the damage that Labor did to our border protection policies, under Labor fifty thousand unauthorised arrivals on eight hundred vessels over five years because of Kevin Rudd and Julia Gillard and Immigration Ministers in the Gillard Rudd period, Malcolm Turnbull and Tony Abbott have repaired that and it's a much better situation and we have a lot more faith in our immigration policies as a consequence and I'm disappointed to hear Richard Marles not being bi partisan on national security it seems very surprising to me. We are not talking about skilled migration verses unskilled migration, we are talking about people feeling safe at home and so far that's always been a policy which Labor and Liberal have been able to agree on.

**STEFANOVIC:** Okay Richard, your policy on asylum seekers was a disaster the PM says it was a legacy of shame, would you allow more in?

**MARLES:** Look at Prime Minister is all over the place in terms of his understanding of this issue. There were mistakes made unquestionable under the Labor period but one of the real issues here was the cynical decision of the Liberal not to support the Malaysian arrangement had a huge impact on resolving this issue, six hundred and seventy people perished at sea after the Liberals blocked the Malaysian arrangement. But in the one breath he is complaining about Labor closing Nauru and Manus and in the other he is criticising Labor for reopening those facilities and having offshore processing underway at the moment. The truth is this government doesn't know what it's doing when it comes to Manus and Nauru; they are paralysed by fear and not only is that a problem for those people who are on those facilities but ultimately risks our border security, because they are not sustainable facilities at the moment.

**PYNE:** And Karl, Labor's policy – Labor's solution to that is to double the refugee intake and simply take all those people on Nauru and Manus Island, sending the green light -

**MARLES:** That's absolutely not true

**PYNE:** back to people smugglers -

**MARLES:** That's not true.

**PYNE:** The green light back to people smugglers saying your business plan is back in business again.

**MARLES:** Christopher, you don't have a solution for getting those people of Manus and Nauru. We don't want to bring them to Australia, but we do need to get them off those islands because right now we don't have a sustainable offshore processing system.

**PYNE:** What we have heard this morning Karl, what we have heard this morning is that if Labor wins again the people smugglers are back in business.

**MARLES:** Oh please, you're talking about bipartisanship and you're trotting out all the old lines.

**STEFANOVIC:** Richard, Richard hang on, this is really important stuff this you've changed the rules Chris to prevent an embarrassing exit of MPs from the House of Reps you have go your whip out it seems Chris.

**PYNE:** Hahaha, oh Karl, you wish, um... no.

**MARLES:** Now that's real border security

**PYNE:** We are going to make sure that we have no repeats of the September the first issues and we have got the measures in place to make sure that that happens and honestly it's such an unimportant story for the newspapers of Australia

**STEFANOVIC:** What?

**PYNE:** How we manage the counting of our members is not very interesting to people.

**STEFANOVIC:** I've got vision of you Christopher leaving the Parliament quicker than a pink flamingo across the Serengeti, a couple of years ago.

**PYNE:** [Laughter] You won't find any pink flamingos on the Serengeti, not running across the desert, let me tell you, they need water Karl.

**STEFANOVIC:** Okay it's good to talk to you guys, thank you and Richard, best of luck with Geelong, the Cats, not too much luck though.

**MARLES:** Go Cats

**PYNE:** Go the Swans.

**STEFANOVIC:** Thank you.

**ENDS**