



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

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SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND
SUPPORT
MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO**

**OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL CONTRACT FIASCO ALL THE MINISTER'S
MAKING**

Today's announcement that Austal has been cut from the \$3 billion Offshore Patrol Vessel program shows just how badly the Government has managed this project.

The Government intervened to try and force a shotgun wedding for political reasons. Today's announcement shows just how cack-handed that idea was.

If the Government wanted to insist on a particular company as the builder, they should have done that from the very beginning.

Having got it wrong at the start, the Government couldn't keep their meddling fingers out of this for political reasons, and every time they touched it they made it worse.

This is yet another sorry chapter in the novel of the Liberals' defence contract chaos, from supply vessels to submarines. Let's hope the frigate chapter has a happier ending.

Chaos like this is what happens when you have a minister who only cares about the politics and the announcements. What a disaster.

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Authorised by Noah Carroll ALP Canberra