

**RICHARD MARLES MP**  
**DEPUTY LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY**  
**SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE**  
**MEMBER FOR CORIO**

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT**  
**TELEVISION INTERVIEW**  
**TODAY SHOW**  
**FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2020**

***SUBJECT/S: Coronavirus in Victoria and NSW; Testing of sewerage for coronavirus; Government incentive to Hollywood***

**KARL STEFANOVIC, HOST:** I am joined by Deputy Opposition Leader, Richard Marles and the 'Daily Telegraph's Political Editor, Anna Caldwell. Thank you for your time guys. Really appreciate it. Richard, it is not an easy job. Is the criticism fair?

**RICHARD MARLES, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY:** Look, I actually think now is not the time for blame. I know that is what you are probably going to expect me to say but I am not sure how inflaming State rivalries right now is the way in which we are going to get through this health crisis as a nation. It is really important that we get to the bottom of it. I actually think Daniel Andrews has been pretty good at fronting the media during the course of this pandemic. A judicial inquiry has been put in place. We will get those answers in time. But there is also an essential truth that Brad Hazzard said as the New South Wales Health Minister; so long as the pandemic is going on, so long as this disease is out there in the community

at any level, then we are going to see community transmission and what that means is we have got to be incredibly careful as we go forward and make sure we are following the rules.

**STEFANOVIC:** I think, I mean I think he has done a great job in some parts and a lot of parts, actually, but allowing this to go through is one thing, but just not explaining it to people, I think was really soft. And Anna, it is a disaster that is leaping borders now. The New South Wales Government is going to extreme lengths to track down mystery cases. It keeps on getting bigger and it all came back to those areas in hotel quarantine. I think, own it and move on, yeah?

**ANNA CALDWELL, STATE POLITICAL EDITOR OF THE DAILY**

**TELEGRAPH:** I think that is right, I mean I don't like to see it as a case of State rivalry either but the reality is, what the science showed this week is that the outbreak we are seeing in New South Wales has been traced by science, back to Victoria. And the Victorian Chief Health Officer said this week that it is absolutely conceivable that every case we are seeing in Victoria at the moment, and as we know there is a lot of them, can be linked back to hotel quarantine. Now, that is a disaster that really I do think, without doubt Dan Andrews needs to explain himself over. I agree with you, Karl, I don't see why he can't come out and just answer questions on it. The buck stops with the Premier. And I think we see a tendency sometimes to hide behind these judicial inquires, you know, it sort of kicks the can down the road when really we do need answers.

**STEFANOVIC:** Yeah, I think it is a lot for him to shoulder as well. He must be feeling terribly bad about the mistakes that happened. Anna, you have written a really interesting article in the paper today, interesting because I don't know how you are going to explain this on breakfast television, but the lengths New South Wales is going to now to, in order to find out how widespread the virus has gone. Can you explain to the people at home?

**CALDWELL:** Well, I can. What we learnt yesterday at the New South Wales press conference from Chief Health Officer in New South Wales, Kerry Chant is they are actually monitoring the sewerage system in New South Wales to detect outbreaks that they are not aware of and also to sort of see in places where they don't think there is any coronavirus just to check the sewerage system just to check that they are correct. The point that I made in my column today, I mean that is really quite astounding and impressive. I mean, it is not a great topic for breakfast TV, I agree, but I just think the lengths we are going to, to try to track this virus, I am happy to see that.

**STEFANOVIC:** We could monitor what is going down in Canberra but I think we all know, Richard.

**MARLES:** They are- snooping the poop of Canberra, is the subject of the entire Australian press gallery. So there is a whole lot of that regularly going on and we don't need any more (*Inaudible*)

**CALDWELL:** That is what we do best.

**STEFANOVIC:** They do, do it best. A million Australians out of work and time is ticking on JobKeeper, all of this as the Prime Minister turns to extending industrial exemptions to employers to ensure recovery. Richard, do you support all those measures?

**MARLES:** We will have a look at them when they come to the fore. I think we need to bear this in mind; it is really important that we are getting jobs back, it is important that we are getting secure jobs back and people's rights at work actually do matter. And security at work is something which has been on the decline over the last seven years. And it goes to simple questions about whether you can get a bank loan when you have got a job, dependable employment is as important as the employment itself. And so as we are factoring in exactly how we manage our way out of that, it is going to be an important consideration.

**STEFANOVIC:** Really quickly, I think the PM is looking to spend \$400 million in attracting Hollywood productions to Australia. What did you think about that, Richard?

**MARLES:** I think the more Hollywood productions in Australia, the better. Seriously, if we do this, if we get through corona in better shape than the US, and that certainly looks like what is happening right now, then I think there is an enormous opportunity to do more film making in this country. It is a good thing.

**STEFANOVIC:** Anna?

**CALDWELL:** Agree, it is an opportunity for us and we should be grabbing it with both hands. I am happy to see it.

**STEFANOVIC:** Okay, great to talk to you guys. Have a wonderful, wonderful weekend and we will see again this time next week. Appreciate it.

***ENDS***

Authorised by Paul Erickson, ALP, Canberra.