



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

**THE HON DR MIKE KELLY AM MP
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND
SUPPORT
MEMBER FOR EDEN-MONARO**

**TURNBULL AND PYNE SEND MIXED MESSAGES ON SUBMARINE
INFORMATION LEAKS**

Less than a week after Christopher Pyne embarrassed Prime Minister Turnbull by allowing the Government to lose votes in the House of Representatives for the first time in fifty years he again has to explain himself. This time in relation to the handling of sensitive information by the contractor that will be building Australia's submarines.

Yesterday morning Mr Pyne was playing down the significance of the leaked material telling the ABC that he was satisfied that the protections in place were "second to none". By the afternoon, Prime Minister Turnbull said that the leaks were very, very regrettable, having raised the matter directly with President Hollande. Mr Turnbull also referred to the relevance of the ongoing French investigation into this apparent security failure.

Shadow Minister for Defence, Richard Marles, said he was concerned about the contradictory signals being sent by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Defence Industry on this important matter of national security.

Mr Marles said, "on the one hand we have the Prime Minister indicating that this is a matter with which we should be concerned and on the other hand we have the Minister responsible, Mr Pyne, telling us that we have nothing to worry about".

Shadow Assistant Minister for Defence Industry and Support, Dr Mike Kelly said "either the Minister for Defence Industry is not being open with the Australian people or he is not across the situation. We can't afford to have a Government that is not managing such critical issues properly and the public deserves to know who is telling the truth, the Prime Minister or the Minister for Defence Industry."

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