

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP  
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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT  
TELEVISION SHOW  
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***SUBJECT/S: AFL Finals, Dastyari, Foreign donations, South China Sea, G20, Foreign land ownership, defence industry.***

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Well, good afternoon and welcome to Pyne & Marles here on Sky News Live. It's Friday the 9th of September at 1 o'clock in Standard Eastern Time. It's great to be with you. Welcome to you, Richard. How are things going in footy-mad Geelong today?

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, Geelong is absolutely footy-mad today, Christopher. We have, of course, got the first qualifying final tonight between Geelong and Hawthorn. And it's a fantastic time to live in this town when our team is on the march. The whole place gets painted blue and white. In the Geelong advertiser today, you'll see this lift out that's just an example of the sort of hysteria which is going on. And uh, it's actually a fantastic sense of community spirit. So, are you getting something of that feeling there in Adelaide, in anticipation of the Crows?

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Well, it's a great time of the year to be alive, Richard, if you're an AFL state. And actually we're all a bit disappointed it didn't start last weekend. Everybody was looking around last weekend wondering where the football was. So, tomorrow night the Crows play North Melbourne here at the Adelaide Oval. I'll be there with all of my brood and we're hoping for a big win but obviously not taking anything for granted. Obviously, West Coast will be a bit disappointed today. They would have expected to beat the Western Bulldogs and to keep moving through the finals. But that's what happens. Teams just go out, that's the end of their season. Finito.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, indeed, and so I suppose that sense of euphoria, for it existed, is no longer there in Perth.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Extinguished.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Extinguished! We got a great program today. This week we have seen the Prime Minister visit the G20 in China, he was at the East Asian Summit in Laos, he's at the Pacific Islands Forum right now in the Federated States of Micronesia, we're going to have a talk about that trip. It's been a difficult week for my friend and colleague Sam Dastyari,

and that's opened a whole discussion around the question of donations. We'll be talking about that. And this week, we also had the Land Forces 2016 conference in Adelaide which is the premier procurement conference in the army space. Christopher and I were both there. We're going to have a bit of a chat about that. Our guest today is Tanya Hosch who is the AFL's general manager for inclusion and social policy. And we're going to have a talk to Tanya about the way in which footy and the AFL is driving social change within our community. But we begin with the Prime Minister's visit overseas this week and he started at the G20 in China. Have a look at this. We got that?

**MALCOLM TURNBULL:** Australia's interest is in peaceful negotiation, peaceful resolution and the maintenance of the stability and the harmony that has underpinned the economic growth in the region, including in our own country.

**BARACK OBAMA:** ASEAN is key to the US rebalance to Asia, and more importantly it's key to a peaceful and prosperous future for the world.

**RICHARD MARLES:** So, we're in the height of summit season right now, as we call it, and that's because there are a number of leader level international summits around the world that the Australian Prime Minister normally attends. We've had the G20, the East Asian summit, we're at the Pacific Islands Forum right now, there's leader's week at the UN later this month and I think we've got APEC coming up in November. It's been a very packed agenda and, Christopher, it really started, I guess, the whole question of China's place in the world, particularly given that the G20 was being held in China itself.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Well, it was a big week, Richard, for Malcolm Turnbull, and also for Australia. We have a pretty key role to play in the Asia Pacific region as one of the United States' most important allies, along with Japan, and Malcolm has had a week, as you say, at the China, at the ASEAN, at the G20 forum, and ASEAN in Laos and now in Micronesia at the Pacific Leaders Forum. Australia plays a very big role in this part of the world and obviously with the South China Sea issues, issues around foreign investment in Australia, there are lots of issues for the leaders to talk about, not least of which multinational tax treatment through the G20 and making sure our economies are all growing together through free trade. So, there are a lot of challenges. Many of them are bipartisan ones and that's also a good thing because Australia's international interests should rise above partisan politics.

**RICHARD MARLES:** I think that's right, Christopher, it's not only bipartisan, but these are issues which are being grappled with by countries around the world and I think this week neatly framed the duality, I suppose, of the relationship we have with China. We had the land register come out this week, which spoke about the level of Chinese investment in agricultural land in Australia and that speaks to the fact that we do want to have a growing economic relationship with China. And yet at the same time, we're obviously concerned about China's actions in the South China Sea, the construction of the artificial islands and the need for us to really promote an international rules based order, for us to have the Law of the Sea operating throughout the South China Sea. So, I think the difficulty around the questions of China all came to the fore this week.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Yeah, but of course the land register also exploded one myth, which was the largest owner of Australian land from overseas is not China, but happens to be the United Kingdom. So, very interesting week, but of course, we have to move on to the next topic because the clock is against us. And this one is not in the least bit bipartisan and that is

the whole scandal surrounding Sam Dastyari this week. Now, the thing my take out of this, Richard, and I'm sure yours will be different, but my take out is that Sam resigned for all the wrong reasons. He says he resigned because he was a distraction. He didn't resign - he shouldn't have resigned because he was a distraction. He should have resigned because he did the wrong thing. Getting people to pay your personal debts when you're a Member of Parliament or a Senator or a Minister is just plain wrong. And Bill Shorten showed that when he said he was going to govern like a union leader, he really meant it because he's never got this week, that actually Sam Dastyari did the wrong thing. And even within moments of Sam Dastyari's resignation, Bill Shorten is saying he'll be back. So, Labor doesn't appear to have learnt their lesson from this week and I think that goes to the whole problem with the Labor Party, that NSW disease we have been seeing on display through ICAC for years.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, that's a nice try conflating a whole heap of issues in there. Look, let's be clear. Sam made it clear that he did the wrong thing and Bill Shorten made it clear at the outset that accepting this donation did not meet his standards of probity in terms of his frontbench. And ultimately firstly, Sam has apologised for that but he's ultimately paid a very heavy price. But where we get to now, going forward, is the whole question around political donations. I mean, we saw Top Education, the group that was making the donation to Sam, also making donations to the Liberal Party in the lead up to the 2013 election. And, lo and behold, afterwards we see a change in the visa rules. Now, it's not necessarily the question the case that those two things are connected but what this does say is that we need to be banning foreign donations, and we much we must have much greater transparency and both of those questions are ones where the Government, where yourself, have been prevaricating. Why shouldn't we be banning foreign donations?

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** I think we need to have a proper look at donations in Australia, because there's a lot of issues, constitutional issues to do with freedom of speech and the right to be involved in the political process. I have got no problem with banning foreign donations. Let's face it; 3.8 million of the \$5.5 million of foreign donations went to the Labor Party. So, that's not exactly going to disadvantage the Liberal Party. But, of course we don't want to conflate the issues. I mean...

**RICHARD MARLES:** Then let's do it.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Well... You got to look at it carefully. If we ban donations from corporations and unions, and only allow them from individuals, which I advocated in 2007, what if the union movement just gives their money to Get Up to campaign against the Liberal Party. So, you've got to deal with third party campaigning issues as well. We need a proper discussion, a proper inquiry; not a knee jerk reaction to Sam Dastyari doing the wrong thing. Next subject, clock's run out.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, we absolutely need to do all of that but I reckon banning foreign donations would be a good place to start. Anyway, this week you and I were both in Adelaide at the Land Forces Conference 2016 and I think we may even have a clip of your press conference, Christopher. Have a look at this.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** (Laughs).

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Our Defence Forces in the future need to be the most capable in the region and amongst the most capable in world. Our allies expect nothing less. To do that, we need to have a strong defence industry domestically here in this country.

**RICHARD MARLES:** So, Christopher, I must be the first Shadow Minister in the history of the Commonwealth to introduce a clip of the Minister that I am shadowing. As well as...

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** I think that's true.

**RICHARD MARLES:** ...to be in the audience listening to one of your speeches during the course of this week, so I hope that doesn't portend what is going to be the case for the next couple of years. But Christopher, let's start on a bipartisan note tell us what you did say to the crowd over there in Adelaide at the Land Forces Conference.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Well, Richard there's nothing I like more than me talking about my own press conference. It's kind of unique and I don't think it will... (LAUGHTER). I don't think it will happen very often but obviously it was a brilliant news conference and a magnificent speech given by me at the Land Forces Conference. But seriously, this was a big conference, 4,000 participants each day for three days, 500 exhibitors, 22 nations represented sending high level delegations and what that speaks to is the whole world is looking to Australia to see how we're going to manage a \$195 billion investment in defence capability over the next 10 years. Happily that's also a bipartisan policy because it wasn't always. And I'm sure you'll talk about that in a minute and I'll respond, but the reality is this is a big opportunity for Australia to massively grow our advanced manufacturing, our high technology industries by spending as much of that money as possible here in Australia while also building, vitally, our defence capability so we can be a good regional power and a good ally to our allies and partners overseas.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, look, of course, we absolutely agree with the program and it happening in Australia but we don't want too much love in the air in terms of this program today. You're basically late comers to this, Christopher.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** If only that were true.

**RICHARD MARLES:** When we went to the 2013 election, we were promising 12 submarines, you actually tried to pare it back. Then you were busily trying to hawk the building of that off to Japan. You had a Defence Minister at the time who was accusing Australian workers of being unable to build a canoe.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** These are very sad delusions.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, he was the one who said we were unable to build a canoe.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Six years of nothing.

**RICHARD MARLES:** The Valley of Death in the shipbuilding yards was brought about by you taking the supply ships off to Spain. So...

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Nobody believes this Richard, nobody. Not even you believe this rubbish.

**RICHARD MARLES:** You have finally arrived at Labor's policy, but it is actually Labor's agenda that you're now carrying out.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** If only you made a decision rather than cutting funding to 1.5% of GDP, the lowest level since 1938, but we have been told to move to the break so I guess we better do as we're told.

**RICHARD MARLES:** We also took it to a very high level over the course of the last 20 years.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Oh, rubbish, when did you do that?

**RICHARD MARLES:** During the Rudd years we took it to 1.92%. And basically...

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Come on.

**RICHARD MARLES:** What you are implementing now is a Labor policy. We too need to get to a break.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** The lowest level since the appeasement period. The lowest level since Harold, since Neville Chamberlain.

**RICHARD MARLES:** I'm really keen to have a fight, but I'm – I've got someone in my ear telling me we've got to go. Join us after the break when we will be having a chat with Tanya Hosch.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Well, welcome back to Pyne & Marles here on Sky News Live. Our guest today is Tanya Hosch, who is the head of diversity at the AFL, and only been in the job for a couple of weeks. Welcome to you, Tanya. We wanted to talk today, Richard and I, about the AFL as a change agent, a social change agent but going into the finals fever period, we're all excited about that, as Geelong and Crows supporters, both of which of our teams are good chances for the flag. So, obviously the AFL's change a great deal in the last five, ten, several decades to a game which was a very blokey game to an agent of change around racism, homophobia, gender equality. When did this change start happening? And was it a deliberate decision or was it just evolved over time?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Well, I think that the AFL is a game that has always attracted some amazing Aboriginal and Torres Strait talent in particular, has been very live to issues such as racism and, in fact, the AFL introduced a racial vilification code over 20 years ago now and I have to say that's one of the reasons I was so excited to get this opportunity to work for the AFL because I know that they're not afraid to take on some of these larger challenges, and in my role as general manager of inclusion and social policy, part of what I'm going to be able to do is to work with the AFL to keep progressing on these sorts of issues including the new women's league and also, you know, excitingly looking at the recent Pride Match and the popularity of these things.

**RICHARD MARLES:** And I think I mean you mentioned the way in which the AFL has handled Indigenous inclusion, and I think it's exactly right the AFL is probably best practice around the country on Indigenous affairs. But you are obviously expanding this question of inclusion across the whole community and over the course of the weekend; we saw just a

fantastic event with the women's match. Tell us a bit about that. Where do you see the women's game going? And what role is there in terms of using it to promote gender equality?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Well, I mean, as Christopher said, I'm two weeks in the job but I'm really excited about the potential of the women's league and I know it is the intention of the AFL to make this a fully professional part of the AFL community. The viewership over the weekend was just incredible, and very encouraging about the opportunities that do exist to make sure that women's sport and women who enjoy playing AFL start to attract the same sort of numbers as the men have for years. And I think that what that does is going to encourage a whole new generation of girls and young women who have always enjoyed the sport as spectators and giving them an opportunity to get out on the field. And I think that every time we see those images, more and more in society and in public life and they come to prominence, it's absolutely going to give great profile to the place of girls and young women and older women in sport in Australia.

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** So Tanya, a few years ago in the AFR's most powerful list that they produce every now and then, they listed Andrew Demetriou and the AFL as a cultural power. And that was when I kind of noticed for the first time that the AFL quite apart from politics and politicians, was sort of taking a leading role in a cultural change, and, my sense is that because of its reach, and now that reach is Australia wide when it used to be, when I was growing up and when Richard was growing up, basically Victoria, SA, WA and Tasmania, and now, of course, it's a national very much a national game. Is that the AFL's do they have a deliberate discussion about how to be a cultural change around the halls of the AFL in terms of the next big thing like the Pride Match for example that's coming up, like women's football, is there another proposal for the next kind of step that the AFL plans to take?

**TANYA HOSCH:** Well, I think that there's going to be increasing energy and more work to do in relation to all of the issues you have just mentioned, Christopher. I mean certainly we still do sadly see examples of racism experienced at AFL games, but we shouldn't be surprised by that because we know that racism exists across Australia in different pockets, unfortunately, and so we will see those things still occur. But there's obviously an enormous amount of work to bring the women's game to its full potential and we have only just begun but all of the signs and feedback are just so encouraging. We know we're going to be successful as that grows other time. I think that the AFL wants to be very responsive to Australian society. It is an all Australian game, it is now watched right across the country, as you said, and so what we want to do is make sure everyone knows that there's a place for them in the AFL community. It's a very, very positive opportunity for the AFL to be able to help bring some direction and some leadership to some of these issues that society sometimes struggle to deal with, and I think that they have got a really proud history of that. And when I think about my former job that I left to come to the AFL, I'm really aware that...

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Recognise.

**TANYA HOSCH:** We still have a lot of work to do. There's more protection against racial discrimination at the moment if you go to an AFL game than there is in the Australian Constitution. So there is still work to do and I think the AFL is very proud to show some leadership on those issues and I guess that's partly why they have employed me in this brand new role on the executive of the AFL and I feel really privileged to have that opportunity to work with them.

**RICHARD MARLES:** So, Tanya, at the level of the individual players, they are obviously role models within our community, that's part of the power of footy in terms of social change, but we have seen, you know, going back Nicky Winmar and Adam Goodes individually play a role in terms of confronting racism. But on a range of other issues, Jimmy Bartel at a Geelong level has been running a campaign this year in respect to domestic violence. Other members of the Geelong footy team have been running issues around Just Think which is about trying to stop, you know, king hits when people are - have drunk too much alcohol. Do you encourage players to take causes up themselves? Or is there a policy of trying to support players when they want to walk down that path?

**TANYA HOSCH:** I think what we're seeing is that the players work really hard to come to prominence in their chosen field, football, and they're very aware of the responsibilities that come with being high profile and I think it's great some of them want to show leadership and utilise that profile in that way. I'm not quite sure what the policies are at this stage in relation to that, but every sign I have seen is that these players are really encouraged to be positive role models in the community and the fact that they take their own initiative to take up these causes just goes to show, I think, the diversity of interests that are held across the players in the sport. And I think that that leadership does encourage other people, and I think it's great they want to be such strong leaders beyond what they do on the football field.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, Tanya, thank you very much for joining us today and we really wish you all the best of luck in your role over the coming years.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Thank you.

**RICHARD MARLES:** I think it really builds on what the AFL has done and you're going to do a fantastic job, I have no doubt.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Thank you so much.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Thanks for joining us today.

**TANYA HOSCH:** Thank you. Thanks to both.

**RICHARD MARLES:** That brings us to the question of the week which was really inspired a little bit by the release of the Albanese book last week, which whilst not being written by Anthony Albanese, was about a politician, but it got us thinking about the number of books which are written by politicians and there are a number. And the question is: Why do politicians write books? Christopher, you are an author, why did you write your book?

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** Well, Richard, I wrote a book called A Letter To My Children because my eldest daughter, Eleanor, asked Caroline once, "If he wanted to have all these children" and I have four "why would he go into politics?" Which got me thinking about the career that you and I have chosen which is a career of public service and why people choose public service careers, whether it's politics, whether it's medicine, whether it's nursing, whether it's industry, whatever it might be, and that's why I wrote my book and it gave me an opportunity to sort of write history about the last sort of 15 to 20 years when I first got elected and before I got elected and lots of politicians do write books. Anthony Albanese didn't write this book, Karen Middleton did, and good luck to Karen and I hope Anthony sells a few books. But lots of politicians have written books over the years, usually they want to rewrite

history in the case of Wayne Swan's book about his role as Treasurer. Other times they want to set down a platform for why they should be the leader of the Labor Party or the Liberal Party as in the case of Tony Abbott's book *Battlelines* or Chris Bowen's book when he wrote when he was the Shadow Treasurer. Some are indecipherable about economics. I won't name the indecipherable ones for fear of offending anyone. So, there's lots of reasons, when are you going to write your book, Richard?

**RICHARD MARLES:** Oh, look, I'm not sure I don't have any plans to write a book at the moment. I really enjoy writing and occasionally pen the sort of odd whimsical piece for often the Herald Sun or indeed the Geelong Advertiser, so I think my abilities might be limited to that. Tell me did it make you wealthy?

**CHRISTOPHER PYNE:** No, I wish it had. I mean, You wrote a very funny piece for a newspaper many years ago which made me laugh a great deal actually. It was when I decided you must be quite a reasonable bloke. But books don't make anybody wealthy unfortunately unless you're, you know, that fellow Geoffrey Archer in the UK and write sort of fiction mixed with fact. No, you don't write books to make money. You write books for a whole lot of other reasons. You should write one. You should have a go, you're good at writing.

**RICHARD MARLES:** Well, let's - I'll see if I get taken by the urge but it hasn't happened quite yet. That brings us to the end of our program. Nice to talk to you again today, Christopher, and we look forward to joining all of you again next Friday at 1 o'clock on Pyne & Marles on Sky News, we'll see you then.