

The Labor logo features the word "Labor" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a red rectangular background. To the right of the red bar is a blue square containing four white stars, representing the Australian flag.

MEDIA RELEASE | **WE'LL PUT
PEOPLE FIRST**

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

TIME FOR PYNE TO FIX HIS ATTENTION ON HIS JOB, NOT SOMEONE ELSE'S

Federal Labor today welcomed the signing of an Agreement with the French Government on Australia's Future Submarine Program.

The Future Submarine Program will be central to Australia's national security for decades to come. Delivering the program is a bipartisan commitment, and in government Federal Labor will ensure Australia has the sovereign submarine operation and sustainment capability our country needs.

Shadow Defence Minister Richard Marles said that while Federal Labor welcomes this step on an important program for Australia's security, the Liberal Government has disgracefully politicised the process to get there.

"Australia's national security interest should be the first and only consideration for the Future Submarine Project", Mr Marles said. "The Liberals have seen it through a political lens from the very beginning."

"That this procurement ended up tossed around the partyroom in an effort to help a single politician's leadership ambitions is disgraceful.

"National security is too important to be played out for political gain inside the Liberal Party.

"It's time Christopher Pyne fixed his attention on his job, instead of fixing for someone else's."

TUESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2016