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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
TELEVISION SHOW
PYNE & MARLES, SKY NEWS
FRIDAY, 6 OCTOBER 2017**

SUBJECT/S: Las Vegas, Pacific 2017, Energy, COAG, Defence.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Good afternoon and welcome to Pyne and Marles here on Sky News Live. It's Friday October 6th at 1PM Eastern Standard Time. I'm Christopher Pyne and I'm here in Adelaide and my colleague is Richard Marles and he's in Geelong. Good afternoon Richard. How are you going?

RICHARD MARLES: I'm well Christopher But I'm reminded of a conversation you and I had a few programs ago where we talked about what happens when our team loses in the footy and I think what we concluded is that both of us become a little bit bitter. I have to confess that that's where I'm at at the moment. Are you feeling a bit bitter?

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well Richard, Adelaide is basically in denial about the Grand Final. Nobody mentions it. There's no more bunting the bunting and balloons have all been put away. No streamers to celebrate the game but I would like to say that after two years after our coach was brutally murdered by his son. For Adelaide to get into the Grand Final to be clearly the best team of the year but not when the Grand Final on Grand Final day is an enormous achievement and I'm very proud of the Adelaide Football Club for what they achieved and bring on next season is all I can say because like you I've moved as quickly as possible.

RICHARD MARLES: Well that's a look that's admirable positivity that you're showing. And look the story in the aftermath of Phil Walsh's death is incredible in Adelaide and the team and the town has gone through a lot. So you're absolutely right about that and here in Geelong we had the Carji Greeves Medal Night which is the best and fairest which Patrick Dangerfield won of course and we too still hurting but looking forward to next season. But yeah there's no bunting around Geelong at the moment and we are all moving on very quickly and looking forward to the cricket season. But we should move on, today we're going to be talking about the absolutely tragic events that played out in Las Vegas during the week where 58 people lost

their lives in the worst mass shooting that we have seen in the United States, hundreds were injured, so we'll be talking about that. COAG met this week and there were another raft of counter-terrorism measures that were discussed and agreed to by the leaders at COAG, we're going to have a chat about that and the Prime Minister and the government have been talking with gas companies again. We'll be discussing that and indeed that was talked about at COAG, so we'll be talking about gas and energy. Our guest today is Vice Admiral Tim Barrett the Chief of Navy and Chris and I were both at Pacific 2017 in Sydney a conference which looked at the defence industry and the maritime space and we're talking to Tim about what he's been doing at Pacific 17 and the challenges that the Navy faces today. But first to the tragic events which occurred in Las Vegas earlier in the week. Have a look at this.

MALCOLM TURNBULL: Our hearts go out to the families of the victims.

BILL SHORTEN: Thank God we live in Australia. Thank God for our gun laws. I also think that we need to put our foot down and say that if you are a gun smuggler you could face up to life imprisonment.

MALCOLM TURNBULL: It's important that there be strong mandatory minimum sentences.

MARK DREYFUS: Wrong in principle for the parliament to dictate in advance that there must be a minimum penalty imposed.

MALCOLM TURNBULL: You should really rethink the unity ticket that is currently on with the Green Party.

RICHARD MARLES: Christopher you and I both have a great affinity with the United States. We're both fans of that country. But in relation to gun laws and I think capital punishment but in relation to gun laws it is such a very different culture and you look at what's occurred in Los Vegas and it's hard not to feel that for the US they've got a real blind spot on this issue.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: There's no doubt about that Richard. I think there's two things. Two points to make here. One is that you know Canada across the border has a completely different culture around guns, totally different outcomes in terms of violent crime and murders. The United States has a blind spot I think that is the right phrase around gun laws. We fortunately don't have that problem here in Australia. Obviously my sympathies go to the families of those people who have been murdered so brutally in Las Vegas. But it does remind us that we have to be ever vigilant and right now we have laws before the parliament for minimum mandatory sentences. Why isn't Labor supporting those mandatory minimum mandatory sentences for gun smugglers?

RICHARD MARLES: Well I mean I think it is important that we look at all of the proposals that are there in terms of tightening our gun laws situation. But I do feel that we are lucky that we do live in a country where we have regulation of guns. That's very much the mainstream political mission and I don't mind saying at all that I think it's one of the real achievements of the Howard government that it put in place

the regime of gun laws after the tragic events which occurred at Port Arthur and really what occurred then was a change in our political culture which enabled this to be a mainstream mission. But we should always be alive to the fact that we haven't seen a major event like that since Port Arthur. But it's only just recently that we've passed the 30 year anniversary of the Hoddle Street Massacre and The 30 year anniversary of these three is coming up. These events have occurred in Australia and it's very important that we deal with these issues.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well Port Arthur certainly was a highlight. We have minimum mandatory sentences for people smugglers and I think we should have them the gun smugglers. We manage to agree on Port Arthur results after that. It's time we agreed on these minimum mandatory sentences as well. But this week we also had COAG with the prime minister and the Premiers and Chief Ministers all gathered together to talk about the key issues where we can cooperate between the States and the Commonwealth. Let's have a look at this.

MALCOLM TURNBULL: We have seen real unanimity both in terms of the decisions that we've taken and in the purpose and in the commitment to keep Australians safe.

DANIEL ANDREWS: Some issues or above party politics.

MALCOLM TURNBULL: We've agreed as you know to establish a national facial biometric matching capability.

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK: I would really like to see that register up in time for the Commonwealth Games.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Facial recognition technology upgrades terrorism offences the charge the keeping of people in custody while their question before they're charged. How did you see the outcomes of COAG?

RICHARD MARLES: Well I think they make sense because what we're really looking at is sharing of information and sharing of data the information around driving licences and then being able to apply facial recognition techniques to that. I mean that makes perfect sense as does trying to harmonize laws around the country in terms of how long people can be held without charge. It makes sense that we have consistent laws around Australia to deal with that. I think what really struck me about it is that for all governments state and federal in this space the cause that we all need to be addressing and meeting is public safety I mean very evidently. And of course there are civil liberties issues around the Daniel Andrews I think put it pretty succinctly that that right now in the climate that we're in at the moment and the kind of challenges and threats that we face at the moment, governments don't have the luxury to have the kind of debates around that that they've had in the past because we need to be making sure that we have all the laws and mechanisms in place such that we can protect people

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: And the public has moved on to reject the arguments we used to have about these civil liberties vs. national security very much the pendulum has swung towards national security protection domestic security terrorism because

we can't afford to have Australians put in danger because of esoteric arguments that used to be front and centre. I mean that the pendulum might swing back again at some point but it hasn't yet. But we need to move on to the next issue and I think it's about gas and I think you're going to introduce.

RICHARD MARLES: Indeed it is and this week the government was talking with gas companies and reached an agreement with them and indeed this issue was spoken about at COAG as well have a look at this.

MALCOLM TURNBULL: I want to thank you for your operation and the assurances the commitments you've given to ensure that the east coast gas market will be supplied.

BILL SHORTEN: Now the gas companies say that they'll charge a reasonable price but Australians have had experience in the last couple of years of war gas companies think is a reasonable price.

DANIEL ANDREWS: But the government of Australia under the prime minister's leadership is pro fracking well come to Victoria and see how that goes for you.

RICHARD MARLES: So Chris for us is where we've now got to that every summer the plan of the government is to go and plead with the gas companies to make sure you get enough gas for our nation. I mean don't we need to be actually pulling the trigger on the legal mechanism. We need a government which is actually going to govern rather than beg in this space surely.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well Richard Labor had absolutely no credibility on energy policy. The reason we have gas leaving our shores in such huge amounts and not being provided for the domestic market is because Labor didn't put any mechanisms to protect the domestic gas market. Now we are acting where you didn't. You keep talking about pulling the trigger. If we pull the trigger as you say three months ago when it starts on January the 1st any way it would have been the wrong number that we would have pulled the trigger on in terms of petajoules what we needed to do was get that right information. We have now got it. The gas companies have agreed with the government to provide that gas into the domestic market. Gas prices have dramatically come down since we put pressure on the gas companies and. Bill Shorten wants to do is keep selling the same old sad fear into the community whingeing and complaining every day to get his head on the television news. When are you going to have an all of the above practical approach rather than your ideological obsessions with being anti coal.

RICHARD MARLES: Oh that was an extraordinary spray which ended up on coal right there. I mean the point in relation to gas is that there is no legal underpinning to what you've done and that's what that's what we actually need to see. But the real question here in terms of the whole energy debate and I've asked you this a number of times before. Is the government going to reach a clean energy target?

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: We are working through the last recommendation of the Finkel report. There are 50 recommendations we've adopted 49 of them. We're working through the last one. We want to get it right, now I know Labor is an

ideological party that thinks it's all renewable and no coal. What the public want is they want electricity prices they can pay and they wanted to be reliable and they also want to reduce our carbon footprint and that's exactly what we're doing. Solar, wind, hydro, pumped hydro and coal all of them working together. But I think we've come to the end of this story on this issue and we've got to take a break.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Welcome back to Pyne and Marles here on Sky News Live. On Friday the 6th of October it was our great pleasure this week for Richard and I to interview the chief of the Navy Vice Admiral Tim Barrett at the Pacific 2017 conference. We had a terrific interview. And let's have a look at it.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well Vice Admiral thank you very much for joining us here on Pine. And Miles it's obviously a big week for us at Pacific 2017 a very large Exhibition and Conference. And we've obviously made some very significant announcements this week none more important than the enterprise approach the combat management system. First time I've ever done that in the Navy, across all of the platforms. How would you describe its importance and what it means for the Navy in the future.

TIM BARRETT: Very significant for two reasons. Firstly it is necessary to get an early decision on the combat management system to allow us to develop and deal risk. What will be the future frigate construction path. So that was important for the first step. For the second step the announcement also promulgated what will be an enterprise approach to how we manage combat systems throughout Australia within the Navy. That's a sensible decision to make because it allows us to concentrate on two particular paths aegis and a SAAB solution. With that I can manage my training I can manage the cost of updating those sorts of systems into the future. So it's a sensible business approach as well as being a sensible capability approach.

RICHARD MARLES: So we're here at Pacific 17 in Sydney and I think there's just about every defence industry player in the maritime space I think you said Christopher here it's the biggest number of exhibitors that there's been at this conference. How big a deal as the next couple of days for you in terms of your role?

TIM BARRETT: Oh they're very important. It's again in two parts. Firstly the industry side is important. A lot of business is being done here not necessarily just between the Australian Defence Force and industry. There are a lot of outside players external players from overseas who are doing their own business whilst they're here. That's important for our own industry. The second part is there's a conference going on at the same time the Sea Power conference and that's why I've drawn together many chiefs of Navy from around the world and their delegations and we sit down and discuss the significance the importance of maritime power of in our case Australia's national identity in terms of maritime power. So we have a fairly intellectual debate over why there is a Navy what it is we need to do and how we act as we do.

RICHARD MARLES: And how many chiefs of Navy are they here from around the world.

TIM BARRETT: There are about 16 Chiefs of Navy but about 39 delegations from overseas. It's quite a large contingent of people.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Obviously Tim we have the largest build-up of our military capability in our peacetime history. Happening right now over the next 10 years how do you think that people in the region have noticed what we're doing and whether it's a model for what they might do with their own view of their defence and defence industry over the years to come.

TIM BARRETT: I think they've certainly noticed the level of commitment that we are putting into this recapitalization. But in some cases many of my friends who are chiefs of Navy in the region here have come to me and asked lots of questions about how we're doing why we're doing it. But I provided them with my advice on the pitfalls that we found. But more importantly the advantages that can be gained by taking the sorts of approaches that we've taken that is an enterprise approach to things like the combat management system. So whilst we see a lot of my fellow chiefs around the region here there's a lot of conversation that's always had about how we develop how we can cooperate and it's important that we know to a certain extent each other's business

RICHARD MARLES: The capitalization of the Navy obviously presents challenges to you because on the one hand you are the operator of a capability for the Australian government right now but you're also in a sense the client for the Navy's future capability. How do you balance those two roles?

TIM BARRETT: We have a lot of cooperation with the United States. I have to add we do have a lot with other countries in the region as well. But our ability to operate with the US is supported by the nature of some of the equipment we operate. There is interoperability with for instance the aircraft that we fly the Seahawk helicopter. But also with our systems on board like the Aegis system which currently exists in the new Air Warfare Destroyer. So we do have the ability to engage with them far more than we do with some of our other partners.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Obviously Tim we have the largest build-up of our military capability in our peacetime history happening right now and over the next 10 years. How do you think that people in the region. Have noticed what we're doing and whether it's a model for what they might do with their own good of their defence and defence industry over the years to come.

TIM BARRETT: Well it is a constant balance. My role is to make sure that options are provided through the operational commander to government so that action can be taken when government decrees it. But it means that I have to support a current fleet whilst balancing what will be future needs. I do that by making sure that the current fleet can meet the tasks that are required and that are why there's a lot of work going on to update vessels before. We get the new vessels into service. For example the submarines, there is a lot that's happening with the Collins Class. Collins has had a bad reputation in the past but that is in the past. He's now performing in a manner that we we've always hoped it would perform and was brought in to service but we were already making plans to enhance it and to make sure that it can deliver what's required through until the next submarines are

delivered. So my role is to make sure I balance between current capability and the future. It's a busy time but it's actually the role that I'm required to perform.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: And Tim the Collins Class submarine has obviously come off the project concerned list this week which is great news and that's a sovereign capability in sustainment and maintenance that we want to have now and into the future and in fact the new class of submarines will be sustained and maintained to here in Australia. It's a huge build-up of our defence industry. How do you think defence industry is responding to the challenges of being able to be part of these supply chains working with the primes and partner nations around the world?

TIM BARRETT: Look I think the industry is responding very well in the current circumstances. I'm finding I'm dealing directly with the industry a lot more than I would have in the past. I think that's a great thing. I'll use an example. We had an issue with LHD's the new ships Canberra in Adelaide earlier in the year. A lot of commentary was made a lot of public commentary was made about that. I sat down with the CEOs of the companies that put that ship together and we sorted out what needed to be done and we've done that. And the ships are now operating in the manner in which they should. We've got ships that have been away conducting exercises in North Queensland at the beginning of the year and even now as we speak HMAS Adelaide is leading a six ship task group into the region. That was done because there was a lot of great collaboration between industry and Navy. I hope that we will see more of that into the future.

RICHARD MARLES: Tim thank you very much for joining us today. It's been a delight to have a chat with you. And best of luck for the challenges that you face over the coming years.

TIM BARRETT: Thanks very much. Thanks

RICHARD MARLES: And that brings us to the question of the week which this week is inspired by the Pacific 2017 conference which both Christopher and I were at. And the question is simply is there value in the conferences that we go to. So there are many conferences that you and I would attend Christopher for dinner. Do you think there is value in the ones that you go to.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well especially in this defence space and defence industry which had the Pacific 2017 this week, 15000 registrants more exhibitors than ever before. Avalon in your part of the world which is the air show Land Forces which moves around the country. The defence industry companies put a lot of money and a lot of effort into these conferences. There's a huge number of participants lots of other sub conferences and conventions and expositions that run off them and it's a great opportunity as it was for you and I this week to learn as much as possible in a short space of time about what's going on in the defence industry and defence in general to learn from them and also just to show some support for them. So I think they're very valuable and they remind me a bit of that of the speed parent teacher interview which we do for our children where you go from one teacher to another learning about how your kids going at school. I think they're very valuable and obviously the industry does too. You must you obviously attend them. You must feel the same way.

RICHARD MARLES: Yeah look I do and I like that analogy. There is a bit of that feel as you go from one stall to the next. But Australia Defence Security proprietary ltd. which Do these events do a fantastic job. They do one in each of the service areas so there's Land Forces which occurred in Adelaide this time last year. Pacific 2017 is obviously a maritime space and as you mentioned Avalon happens every two years and again happened earlier this year. Ian Honnery who runs that actually is from Geelong and they claim a Geelong pedigree in putting these conferences together but Pacific 2017 was just fantastic. The accumulation of all the defence industry in the maritime space was genuinely impressive and it was just a unique opportunity to meet with all of those companies in such a short amount of time. I mean very efficient in that sense but the sea power –

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Almost at almost 40 countries attended. That's right 17 conference. Same thing happen with land forces. I think Tim told us there were 16 chiefs of the Navy present. I mean this is really top brass and they're very impressed with what we're doing here in Australia in terms of defence and defence industry it's certainly been noticed and Pacific 2017. You couldn't help but recognize that the buzz in defence and defence industry is clearly there which is great. Sometimes defence feels like the poor cousin of government it certainly doesn't feel that way at the moment.

RICHARD MARLES: Yeah. Well look there's no doubt about that. We're certainly on the map and the number of Chiefs of Navy as Tim said was impressive and that's replicated as you say at Land Forces to save army from around the world and along with Chiefs of Air Force So look there are conferences that you see from time to time which are talkfests but the ones that we've seen this week certainly not that but we've run out of time. Great to talk to you again this afternoon Christopher. Look forward to talking to you again in the future. And we'll be back next week at 1 o'clock on Sky News for Pyne and Marles, join us then.

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