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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
TELEVISION INTERVIEW
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SUBJECTS: ISIS; Liberals' 'energy' policy

HOST: With me for reaction to this story and the other matters of the day, the Shadow Defence Minister, Richard Marles. This is a step forward, but is it premature to claim victory given, you would imagine, the IS approach goes from a traditional war-like scenario to now an insurgency?

RICHARD MARLES, SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE: So I think that's exactly right, Kieran. We would expect that that's where this now goes, but even in terms of the holding of territory, if you like, it's great news, obviously, that Raqqa has fallen and that that is a moment to celebrate. From here I think places like Deir ez-Zor will see the fight continue, but as you rightly say even beyond the end of any kind of geography, any form of a caliphate, there is the whole issue of ISIS acting as an insurgency and it's really important that we continue to work with the Iraqi Government to make sure that Iraq is denied to international terrorists in the future.

HOST: Do you think that the fall of the notional capital of this so-called Islamic State will diminish the pull?

MARLES: I do. I think it's a very significant psychological blow. The promise of the caliphate was a big part of recruiting people to ISIS. To know that there is no country, there is no territory that is a state or a nation, I think is a very important moment to get to - but it's not the end.

It should be acknowledged. It is right to celebrate it. It's an important moment down the road, but as you said earlier this has the potential to move to an insurgency and I think the way to look at it is that international terrorism likes ungoverned spaces. What we need to be doing is play our part in the world today to deny international terrorism all of those ungoverned spaces by trying to bring order to them and that's why I think there is going to remain an ongoing role to play in supporting the Iraqi government.

HOST: Well, if we needed a reminder of how complex all of that is we saw it this week in Kirkuk where two of the allies of our efforts in Iraq, in that region, fighting IS on the same side as our forces are now turning their guns on each other in terms of the Kurds and the Iraqi Government in Kirkuk.

MARLES: Iraq is a country which has a whole range of different groups with very significant history and I think our presence helps in promoting stability within Iraq and obviously has to be done in cooperation with the Iraqi Government, but it is when those sorts of disputes play out where government then ceases to function, that ungoverned spaces develop, and it's in that moment that international terrorism finds a home and a place.

Of course, we're talking about Iraq but there's a whole world to go in terms of getting Syria to a place of post-conflict peace, and that needs to play out as well.

HOST: Let's bring our focus back home now into the energy debate. Is Labor missing an opportunity here for bipartisanship? We've seen Daniel Andrews and Jay Weatherill very quick out of the blocks to criticize the Government's approach when you've got very credible individuals who are backing it.

MARLES: Well, the Government deserves criticism here. They have been all over the place in terms of the policies that they've had around energy. That's clear over a very long time. There's nothing consistent about what the Coalition stands for or seeks to do when it comes to energy.

What we've seen in this latest iteration of their energy policies is much less about an energy policy and more about management of their party room. This is a political fix. It's got much more to do with managing the Liberal Party than it has to lowering electricity prices, powerprices, for Australians-

HOST: -It sounds quite an elaborate political fix when you've got the Snergy Security Board, the market operator, the energy regulator, the Energy Commission, all of these credible experts. They're all part of the political fix?

MARLES: We don't even have the deputy leader of the Liberal Party, Julie Bishop, able to come out and articulate what this plan means even though she sat in the Cabinet Room where it was decided, and whether or not it requires any legislation. I mean-

HOST: -She didn't want to pre-empt the formal announcement. That was it, wasn't it?

MARLES: There is so much uncertainty around this that the Government itself doesn't know how it operates. There is there is no certainty about how we will see renewables go forward in this country. There is no certainty for investment. There is no certainty about whether we meet our obligations under the Paris climate accord. There's absolutely no certainty about whether people will see a reduction in their power prices. I mean, at best, maybe, 10 years from now you get a 50 cent per week reduction in your power prices. That's the only promise being made here.

HOST: That's not that's not a best, that was one comment, that there was up to \$115 on average, and that's a judgment call at this stage.

MARLES: In 2030.

HOST: That's the rough judgement call that they're making at this stage, but they said economic modelling will be done and handed to the States. Why not hold your fire? It's better than what Finkel had promised, which was \$90 a year.

MARLES: \$115 by 2030-

HOST: -You supported Finkel, which was \$90.

MARLES: The Government commissioned Alan Finkel to do a review of this whole area. It was thorough, in-depth, detailed. It came up with a plan. A clean energy target wasn't what we were looking for-

HOST: -But it's \$90, not \$115. It's less.

MARLES: But it's the whole spectrum of what the energy policy seeks to do. It would have provided certainty to those seeking to invest in energy. It wasn't what we planned to do but we were willing to look at that in the spirit of bipartisanship to get an energy policy for this country. What we've now got is a political fix with the Government's party room which the Government itself is struggling to explain.

HOST: Shadow Defence Minister Richard Marles, as always, appreciate your time. Thanks for that.

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