

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP
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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
TELEVISION INTERVIEW
PYNE & MARLES, SKY NEWS
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SUBJECT/S: Energy, High Court dual citizenship decision, the Bachelorette, AFP raid, Senator Cash staffer.

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well good afternoon and welcome to Pyne and Marles here on Sky News like it's Friday the 27th of October 1 o'clock Eastern Standard Time. I'm Christopher Pyne and I'm here in Adelaide and Richard Marles is in Melbourne I should say. And Richard your name was absolutely mad last night on the Canberra Adelaide flight home from the parliamentary sitting week because you ruined the Bachelorette for everybody on the plane. It was paying any attention by revealing the winner before we managed to see the actual final episode.

RICHARD MARLES: And what turns out to be amazing is that there were a lot of people paying attention both on that flight and throughout the parliament yesterday. So I must confess to having done that I did send Mark Butler a text to which he then text back expletive, Spoiler alert, remember we're half an hour behind.

PYNE: So then he spoiled it for everybody else by the way, everybody else on the plane.

MARLES: So I discovered they outcome because I was driving from Melbourne to Geelong I got a text from Chris Bowen who was on to it, as soon as it happened, but during Question Time was going on yesterday and there was suspense motions and we were moving back and forth voting. I can reveal to our viewers that the big topic of conversation was indeed the Bachelorette. Everyone had an opinion. Virginia Trioli on the ABC this morning on the ABC the only thing she was talking about was the Bachelorette and all of us hanging onto the very flimsy excuse that it happens to be one of our colleagues brothers. Which is why it's got our interest right now

PYNE: Of course because all our millions of viewers need to realize of course that Craig Laundry is Stu's brother who Craig says that he's the smart one in the family and he's been keeping us informed all along. Those of us who haven't been sneakily watching the Bachelorette. Look it's a gripping program. It's a very unusual concept. But you know the whole of Australia wants to know who's going to win. We love it.

We love a contest don't we in Australia whether it's the Melbourne Cup, cricket, football Bachelorette the Bachelor we just can't get enough of it.

MARLES: And you've got to give it to Sophie Monk she is very funny and very entertaining. She's got a very wry sense of humor. It could definitely be a comedian. We could spend the whole show talking about the Bachelorette but we should probably push on.

PYNE: Is there anything else happening out there.

MARLES: There's just there is just there's just a little bit happening out there so of course this week was dominated by the federal police raids on the AWU and the ensuing questioning of Minister Michaelia Cash. We're of course going to be talking about that within the next couple of hours. We will have a verdict from the high court about the fate of a number of MP's continuing being in Federal Parliament by virtue of their citizenship. So we'll talk about that and the energy debate continues this week. The South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill made it clear that South Australia weren't convinced at this point in time at least of the government's plans we will be talking about that as well. Our guest is Andrew Davies. Andrew is the director of Defence and strategy at the Australians tragic policy institute. We're going to talk to Andrew about a number of issues. But during the week there was a sort of unheralded but there was actually an announcement of an increased Australian commitment to assist the Filipino government so we'll be talking about that as well. But first off the top Christopher the big issue of the week has been the federal police raids on the AWU and then the questioning of Michaelia Cash. Take a look at this.

CLIP:

It is a very serious allegation that you are making and I refute it completely.

CLIP:

I have just been advised that without my knowledge one staff member in my office in the course of discussion has indicate that he had received information that a raid may take place.

CLIP:

I don't think the Minister has any option other than to resign and if she doesn't resign the prime minister must sack her.

CLIP: A minister is accountable for what she says and her obligation is to speak the truth is she was misled as she said.

MARLES: So Christopher in my time in federal politics I have thought that the single biggest goal was Malcolm Turnbull during gate and Godwin Grech but it would appear that he may have even bettered himself this week. This was a massive own goal in Australian politics don't you think. It was a bigger disaster for you than even Utegate.

PYNE: Look Richard you've had a shocker this week. Labor has had an absolute shocker. You've asked one question on Monday about energy prices. When is the most important issue in the country And you've managed to spend two days talking about the AWU rides on the Australian Workers Union reminding everybody about your sordid connections to the union movement. Upon whose rivers of gold you rely

to try and get into power and the issue about Michaelia Cash and staff is really very much a side issue. But you've managed to remind people all week that you have far too close connections to the unions so this has been a own goal of Labor's own making and I hasn't worried me in the slightest.

MARLES: Well that well that is a very admirable defence Christopher But I think anyone is for a moment thinking that we took the eye off the ball. Look at the end of the day it seems to me that what this goes to is the prime minister's judgment mean running the country coming up with policy thinking about how you can make Australians lives better that is difficult but Malcolm Turnbull continually gets sucked in to what he sees as being the easy option out there and be it Godwin Grech and Utegate be the get up donation. It's kind of the political equivalent of a get rich quick scheme and just like those schemes on both occasions Malcolm Turnbull has blown his political capital. And that's because at the end of the day this is about nothing. It's certainly not about helping Australians –

PYNE: don't you think that the miss use of union membership is important? Don't you think the issue of union membership money is important?

MARLES: Of course that's important but the Christopher the union movement has been supporting Labor Governments since Federation that's not going to be a surprise to anyone -

PYNES: Well I think breaking the law is important.

MARLES: No one's suggesting there is a breach in the law here -

PYNE: That's what the registered organizations commission is investigating whether there has been a breach of the law.

MARLES: It does not go to a break in the law -

PYNE: We're out of time, you're out of time and so is your Leader But anyway moving on to the next issue which is the high court as we sit here arguing about this week in Parliament we are awaiting the high court's decision into citizenship of seven of our parliamentary colleagues. Let's see how that's unfolded.

CLIP: I hold dual citizenship, nationality of Australia and New Zealand.

CLIP: I have discovered that I'm a dual citizen.

CLIP: Till last week I had no suspicion but I could possibly be an Italian citizen.

CLIP: I may be a citizen by descent of New Zealand.

CLIP: I was a British citizen by descent through my Scottish born father.

CLIP: I was a citizen of the UK and colonies.

CLIP: I am a British Overseas Citizen.

PYNE: Well Richard you never know what's going to happen in politics day. And fancy that seven of our colleagues sitting in the parliament for the last x number of years. Almost all of them I think born in Australia I think the two greens were born overseas and maybe Malcolm Roberts but the others all born in Australia happily believing they were Australian citizens and didn't have any other foreign allegiances and suddenly out of the dark comes this this issue obviously it's a pretty important one to get right. The government is confident about the outcome that we'll know in three quarters of an hour what the high court thinks.

MARLES: Well that's right. I mean there's been a lot of speculation and obviously that's going to be answered within the next hour or so and I think you know there's been a lot of people saying that this is the sky's going to fall in, it's a national crisis. I actually don't think it's that. I think this is the system working its way through, as you would expect it to do. I mean if a high court finds in favour of these MPs that's the end of it. If it doesn't obviously there will be pain for the government I think particularly in terms of the ministerial reshuffles but that will come and go. I mean for me I've been surprised at the way the government has kind of reacted to this with a degree of panic and what will linger much much longer than any of this I think the next one I think is the biggest casualty in all of this is Julie Bishop's credibility. We will never forget that it was by virtue of this saga, no true, that she was out there saying our relationship with New Zealand was dependent on who won the New Zealand election. That was the most amazing statement.

PYNE: She didn't say that night. She did say that but you'd like to have said that. Is not what she said and the truth is that what the government's done is taken the bull by the horns I ask the high court to rule on what section 44 of the Constitution actually means. There is one precedent. There's one precedent but that's many years ago and there really isn't a precedent for those people who are born in Australia and acquire citizenship by descent as I said a long time ago on the basis you could acquire citizenship by descent. Kim Jong un could decide where all citizens of North Korea. So it's going to be very interesting and there'll be a lot of speculation. I don't really know what the outcome will be. We'll know soon enough but we should move on.

MARLES: Indeed we will see Christopher but this week the South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill made it clear that he was not convinced by the government's National Energy guarantee policy and there was then a response from the prime minister have a look at this.

CLIP: Jay Weatherill has confirmed that he will not be backing your plan.

CLIP: I think that's you're drawing a long bow there I think. Yeah I don't think he's done that.

CLIP: Absolutely not. I spoke to all of the Premiers with the exception of Dan Andrews and we, but we have we have been in touch with the private conversations are different to the public rhetoric.

MARLES: Christopher this has been drawn up on the back of an envelope. I mean we learned in Senate Estimates today that there were no reports given to you by the energy regulator or the Renewable Energy Agency. None of what you would, no modeling has been done on this. It's just an eight page document. You need the

states to agree to this. It's clear the eight page document has not convinced Jay Weatherill. This thing is going down the toilet isn't it.

PYNE: The National Energy guarantee is the policy of the Energy Security Board which was the recommendation of Alan Finkel which has been set up by the Council of Australian Governments. So it certainly hasn't been drawn up on it on the back of an envelope. Unlike your NBN was on the back of a beer coaster on a VIP flight. There's a lot of work has gone into this. A lot of work and it's a very important breakthrough and what the Australian public expect Richard is the Labor Party the Liberal Party and the Nationals to work together to get affordable and reliable energy to get their prices down and get our emissions down and Jay Weatherill his political motivation at the moment this year is to have a fight with Canberra because he has an election in March. But I actually think wiser heads will prevail because Jay Weatherill knows that he's in a state where energy prices went up 23 percent last quarter highest in the country a shocking 23 percent they went up because of the policies of the South Australian Labor government and we're offering a way through it. Labor should get on board because it can actually bring about the end of the Climate Wars.

MARLES: Well look energy prices have gone up by almost 10 percent in the last three months. And what is clear I mean Josh Frydenberg makes this point that the cheapest new build of energy is actually renewable energy And despite that you've got a projection saying that you expect it to be at 28 percent. By 2030 I mean this policy if you carried it out would actually have to suppress the build of renewable energy and I just hope you'll promise me that you are not about to fund a government power coal fired power station but we have run out of time. Join us after the break when we will have a chat with Andrew Davies.

PYNE: Welcome back to Pyne and Marles here on Sky News Live. Richard and I have the opportunity this afternoon to talk to an expert on some of these regional security issues that while it's been a very busy week in politics haven't perhaps had quite the same profile that they should have this week the new New Zealand government for example was sworn in that has security implications that we can talk about but also we announced a major upgrade of our presence in the Philippines to support the government there. My counterpart Defence Minister Maurice Payne announced this week. So we're joined by the director of defence and strategy from the Australians to take Policy Institute Andrew Davies. Andrew thank you very much for joining us.

ANDREW DAVIES: You're welcome.

PYNE: So Andrew this week Maurice Payne announced 80 personnel to be deployed to the Philippines on Philippine bases to help with training on counterterrorism particularly in an urban setting. Obviously we see the struggle there against ISIS as beyond the siege of Marawi which has now been raised. How do you think how do you see that playing out there and the role of the Australians in the Philippines.

DAVIES: Well I think it was a real wakeup call for us what happened in the Philippines over the last few months. A few of us have been worrying for some time about the rise of a militant form of Islam In Southeast Asia particularly as foreign

fighters start returning home. And I think we've seen just what ISIS is capable of organizing in the region and I think Australia getting involved in it is a very good pre-emptive move. Things could have been much worse.

MARLES: So Andrew both the Australian military and indeed the US Defence personnel are involved in assisting the Philippines government. I think that the issue has been getting as much of a door opening if I can put it that way. From the Philippines government to provide the sort of assistance needed to deal with the threat of ISIL in the Philippines. Are you confident that the Duterte Government has allowed enough of an opening here for that issue to be resolved.

DAVIES: Well I think time will tell on that matter. I think the initial response of the Duterte Government was that they could handle it themselves and that they didn't need external help. I think the fact that they've opened the door suggests that they've realized that they're perhaps facing a bigger problem than they were expecting. The real issue I think for both the United States and Australia will be what the strategy of the Duterte Government is in terms of engaging with the people of the Mindanao region in order to keep a lid on any other sort of extremist sentiments that might be bubbling up.

PYNE: Of course and it has always been significant insurrections in that part of the Philippines, going back to the 70s first masquerading as Marxists and now masquerading as Islamic extremists so it's been an ongoing spur if you like under the saddle of the Philippines government. And one of the other announcements we made this week of course was to increase the surveillance and reconnaissance that we're supplying to the Philippines to provide them with more intelligence and capability. Do you see that as because Australia is not the United States that the Philippines is perhaps relying on us more. No they're very close to the United States but obviously there's been significant tensions there over the last year or so as the Duterte Government has really if you like engage with the Chinese in a way they hadn't previously done so. So do you think Australia is seen as something of an honest broker in the Southeast Asian region and might become that might rely on us more and more over the coming years.

DAVIES: Look I think there might be an element of that I think in some ways where an easier part not because the United States has such strategic weight behind it but almost anything it does has significance above and beyond the operations at hand. So I think Australia might be a bit easier in as much as we're a bit less threatening in terms of the strategic competition that's taking place in the western Pacific.

MARLES: And Andrew I guess the question around the potential for this to spread. Do you see concerns of this kind of threat existing beyond the Philippines in Indonesia or in Malaysia or even in places like southern Thailand.

DAVIES: Oh I think there is enormous scope for more trouble as years go by and we have to be careful as I said before the Philippines government is going to have an issue in how it engages with the people of its southern regions anyway, because we need to distinguish between Islamic extremism and Muslim people feeling disenfranchised and I think that's those two issues coexist and we have to be careful not to conflate them. If we look elsewhere in Southeast Asia you look at Aceh for example the Indonesian government actually handled the sort of separatist movement and the requirements for autonomy from the Aceh and these people very

well. They avoided that turning into something else at least so far. So I think some very sophisticated balancing of those self-determination issues and not seeing everything through the prism of extremism. It's going to be required in order to keep the problem in manageable size.

PYNE: Just finally Andrew I previewed in the introduction that New Zealand of course is sworn in their new government I spoke to the New Zealand Defence Minister yesterday. Ron Mark and I must say I'm pleased to be able to say that he indicated that the coalition agreement that he struck with the Labor party showed that the money that the English government had committed to their military capability build up was part of the coalition between New Zealand first and Labor that they would stand by that which is good news from the regional security point of view. Good news Australia's point of view wouldn't you say.

DAVIES: Oh absolutely. Look I don't think we think enough of that. New Zealand here in Australia to some extent the New Zealanders have degree of expertise in some of the South Pacific areas that are invaluable for us when we're contemplating the sorts of peacekeeping and stabilization operations we've been doing for the last 15 years anyway. You know they have an amphibious capability. They have some air lifters. We tend to think of New Zealand as kind of the Poor Brother but does to some extent for us they're a great force multiplier in that part of the world and I think the fact that they're making an investment in their defence force and they're sticking with that. I think there's a real positive for us.

PYNE: It's definitely good news. Thank you very much this afternoon for joining us. Andrew really appreciate that and we look forward to chatting with you again down the track about some of these issues.

DAVIES: It's a pleasure. Thanks gentlemen.

PYNE: So Richard the question of the week is apart from your partner or your spouse. In our cases. Who is your favourite travelling companion? You've been travelling a bit over the last few weeks I've noticed on your Instagram and Twitter feed. Who would you say who's your favourite travelling companion beyond Mrs Marles?

MARLES: Well Mrs Marles would that would shutter they mention in that way she sees herself very much as Mrs Shutze. But of course this question has been inspired because next week you and I are travelling together. So query whether the answer this question will be different from a week a week from now. But I was with Scott Buchholtz who travelled with me on Operation, exercise Talisman's sabre which was a big military exercise earlier in the year and the army delightedly said to Scott that they had arranged for him to spend the night with a group of his constituents who were reservists. But what that would require was him to bivouac in the dirt actually carve out the dirt and sleep on the ground in the open. Now I can tell you afterwards a confidence is made from actually revealing all the details of the conversation Scott said to me that he clung on to me for dear life. Worrying about the ground that he was going to be sleeping on. But to his credit he was very funny. To his credit he braved the night spent the night with his constituents and he has been dining out on that story ever since. So you have a story Christopher.

PYNE: Well actually surprisingly I travelled quite a bit over the years since I've been in Parma quite a while but somebody might not think it was such a great travelling companion was actually Wilson Tuckey and Wilson is a really charming individual. And in the parliament of course he was rather irascible and well not being thrown out. I think he had the record for being thrown out until I replaced him and then Anthony Albanese replaced me. But they He's actually a great travelling companion very generous. One of those people who never argues about the bill and he was great fun to be with as was his lovely wife Jenny. But also Maurice Payne the defence minister that is a very old friend of mine she is great travelling companion and something that a lot of your viewers would remember. Amanda Vanstone actually she is unsurprisingly a great travelling companion. Anybody who wants to have a drink and a good meal is a good travelling companion Richard and somebody who doesn't complain too much. No one likes a complainer when they're travelling.

MARLES: Well that is true and you're right people who can tell a good story over dinner that helps. But it is I think along with work on committees from time to time when you do when you do travel with members from the other side of the aisle it is an opportunity to actually get to know people as people and I think it plays a very important role in building a sense of collegiality across the Parliament. But Chris we've run out of time. Great to talk to you again. Obviously I'll be seeing you during the week next week as we go and visit submarines in France. And hopefully we will be joining you viewers this time next week on Pine and Mars on Sky News. We will see you then.