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**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
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PYNE & MARLES
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SUBJECTS: Barnaby Joyce; Prime Minister's visit to the United States; state elections; elder abuse; Winter Olympics; political ads

CHRISTOPHER PYNE: Well, good afternoon and welcome to *Pyne & Marles* here on Sky News Live. It's Friday 23 February. It's one o'clock Eastern Standard Time. I'm Christopher Pyne and I'm here in Adelaide, and in Geelong my co-presenter Richard Marles is in situ. Good afternoon, Richard. How are things in Geelong?

RICHARD MARLES: Things are good, steamy and humid for this time of year, but I think all eyes right now, at least in time terms, on two o'clock, when Barnaby is going to front the media, so what's he going to say?

PYNE: Well, Richard, it's hot and steamy here in Adelaide as well, actually. We're not used to this humidity as you Melbournians are not either. Well, I don't know what Barnaby's press conference holds at two o'clock. Obviously, as you say, all eyes are going to be on it. It's been a very difficult fortnight for Barnaby and for his partner, Vikki Campion, and I'm sure his family, Natalie and the girls. Nobody likes their private affairs being dragged through the public gaze. It's very unfortunate and I don't know what's going to happen at two o'clock, but it will give us a lot more clarity for the weekend and for next week.

And of course you've been a bit in the news yourself, 'A Turkish Bazaar' I think was the headline in the *Geelong Advertiser* today, and you seem to have fallen out with a few of your own compatriots in Melbourne?

MARLES: I'm sure it's nothing you're unfamiliar with, Christopher. Colourful character assessments are part and parcel of the business that we're in, but for all the light and sound about that, it really is all going to be about two o'clock this afternoon.

PYNE: It is.

MARLES: You're right, it's obviously hard on the individuals involved, and oftentimes people forget that there are human beings in the centre of this, but it does seem to me that the realpolitik of this has now taken over and as long as Barnaby is the Deputy Prime Minister I just can't see how the Government is going to be talking about anything else than him, and it seems to me totally obvious what needs to happen.

PYNE: Well, we'll know at two o'clock what Barnaby Joyce is going to say, but I've just left the *HMS Sutherland* at Outer Harbour here in Adelaide and met three British Marines who could do quite a bit of damage with a butter knife if it was in their hands, so if I were you I would stay away from Adam Somyurek at all costs if he's wielding a butter knife. They can do you quite a bit of damage.

But maybe we should move one – what are we going to be talking about today?

MARLES: It sounds like neither of us wants to talk about our issues, so let's move on to the issues of the day. The big issue, obviously, which is being overshadowed by other events, is that the Prime Minister right now is in the United States, and will be meeting with the President of the United States. That is always a very big moment in the Australian political landscape, so we're going to have a chat about that, and he's there, unusually, with a number of state premiers who are meeting with American governors. We'll have a chat about that.

We'll also be talking about two state elections which are coming up in Tasmania and your home state, Christopher, of South Australia. They are very interesting and we've seen some interesting ads appear during the course of the last few days.

And elder abuse has been put on the agenda by the Attorney-General, Christian Porter. This is a really significant issue. It hasn't got a lot of air time during the week. We're going to have a chat about that.

Our guest today is Jim Callinan, the head reporter at Fox Sports News. We're going to be talking to Jim about the Winter Olympics, which is coming to a close, its significance particularly as it's occurring on the Korean Peninsula.

But first of all, the Prime Minister's visit to the United States, a very significant moment. Take a look at this.

MALCOLM TURNBULL [CLIP]: Every meeting I have on this visit, including, of course, with the President tomorrow, will be reminded of and celebrate that 100 years of mateship which has given us 100 years of security and prosperity, but it will also set the course for the next 100 years.

MARLES: So we heard the Prime Minister there talking about 100 years of mateship. This is the centenary of the Battle of Hamel in the First World War, and it was the first occasion on which American and Australian troops fought together under the generalship of Sir John Monash, and it really is a significant milestone. It speaks to how important our alliance is with the United States, and how significant they are in our national security framework.

Christopher, I reckon the big issue in that context, then, for this trip, is to get a clear articulation of the Government's approach and response to the US Defence Secretary's Defence Strategy, which was released a couple of months ago, or a few weeks ago. We did see, I think, a messy response, a different response from the Foreign Minister to the Defence Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister. I think this is an opportunity to clarify that and get a very clear statement about Australia's approach to this.

What's your sense of the key mission in respect of this trip?

PYNE: Well, Richard, this is obviously a very high-level visit by Malcolm Turnbull, and it really is the most important news of the week. The United States remains very much our closest economic partner and our closest military partner. We are probably the most interoperable defence force with the United States of any in the world, and therefore Malcolm Turnbull's visit to Washington this week is a very important moment for the country.

He's getting the full treatment, staying at Blair House. It's the highest-ranking visit of an Australian Prime Minister in a long time. As you know, he's got a large group of businesspeople with him, but also six chief ministers and premiers, because they're also going to the Governors Conference, which is a really important political event in the United States, and they will all be there to talk to the governors.

But from a defence point of view, yes, obviously it's critically important that we stay in lockstep with the United States, and the defence announcements that Jim Mattis made early this year, they weren't very complicated. He was really saying that the future in foreign policy and defence policy is going to be about great power competition - the great powers in our region being China, the United States, and to a lesser extent Russia - and how that competition is managed, moving beyond the war on terrorism, which has been a hallmark of the last 10-20 years. While of course that will always be important, in the future the US was making the point that great power competition was going to be one of the signature tunes of the next couple of decades, and I think that's axiomatic.

MARLES: I think that's right, and it is a timely reminder that state actors haven't gone away since September 11, and you only need to look at North Korea to get a sense of that, but the Defence Strategy did talk in terms of China's rise, and I think it is important that the Government has a very clear articulation of how it sees that, but I think this trip is an opportunity to do that.

PYNE: So we should move on, and as you heralded at the beginning of the show, we want to talk about the South Australian and Tasmanian elections, which are very interesting for different reasons, but both very interesting. Let's have a look at how they've been described this week.

JAY WEATHERILL [CLIP]: Today we're announcing an extension of that renewable energy target to 75 percent.

WILL HODGMAN [CLIP]: I can be trusted to do what I say. I think Labor's track record is one that naturally sees them align with the Greens.

SA BEST AD [CLIP]: ['SINGING']#Kids going interstate.
#Vote for a change with SA Best before it's too damn late.
#We're the Best, the SA Best.
#Come on and put us to the test.
#Make a change.

PYNE: Well, Richard, on March 10 the Tasmanians will go the polls with a Liberal Government in place under Will Hodgman, and you'd think that the Hodgman Government will be re-elected. The Hare-Clarke system makes it confusing, there's no doubt about that, but on current trends they should be returned. Labor was slaughtered there at the last election four years ago. It's a tricky state for the Liberal

Party of the last few decades, but I would assume that the Hodgman Government has done enough to be re-elected. The economy is strong, much stronger than South Australia's, which is always a bit of a bugbear in my state.

Contrast that with South Australia, where Labor is really trying to hang on to their base. They are a long way behind in the polls. It's a 16-year Government. I don't know anybody who wants to have another four years of Labor, and Nick Xenophon's ad as we saw just then in that piece, basically he's saying that politics is about slapstick comedy and stunts. He doesn't have any solutions. His policies have been uncosted and not modelled, and he really wants to slip into power trying to be the great comedian and I don't think that will work.

MARLES: Well, let's start on the point of agreement, which is in relation to Nick Xenophon, and I agree with that analysis entirely, and what worries me about trends that we're seeing in Australian politics, global politics, actually, is a sort of drift to populism, and I actually think Nick Xenophon is a very acute example of that, and you're right: slapstick and comedy isn't the basis upon which you make really difficult decisions in government. I hope that South Australians do not see him as an attractive alternative. I think Jay Weatherall has been a fantastic premier and it seems to me – and you would know this in relation to all that he's done and that Government's done in respect of defence industry – it seems to me that he represents really the only stable path forward in South Australia.

In Tasmania, I think we're pretty optimistic about Rebecca White's chances. She has really brought Labor back into the game [AUDIO BREAK] very strong offering in relation to health, which is very much at the heart of Labor's core electoral proposition.

The Hare-Clarke system, as you say, does make it a different type of election to one that we see anywhere else, but we actually hold a lot of hope for how that will play out.

Both elections will be quite a big moment in the landscape and the calendar of this year.

That bring us to our final issue of the day, and that's elder abuse. I think it's very timely that we see this being onto the national agenda. The Attorney-General, Christian Porter, made a statement this week about wanting to develop a nationally coordinated plan to deal with elder abuse. Have a look at this.

CHRISTIAN PORTER [CLIP]: This is not a uniquely Australian problem, it's an international problem. International experts agree that knowledge about elder abuse lags well behind, in fact sometimes as much as two decades behind, the data in fields such as child abuse or domestic violence. The reality is that this is our problem right now, and it will be all of our problems personally and individually and at a family level in due course, so now is the time to develop the national plan to tackle it head on.

MARLES: So my personal situation is my mother is elderly now and we are, as a family, going through all the issues associated with that, and it is difficult to watch a family member in older life becoming more vulnerable, and the idea that there would be people in our society who would take advantage of that moment is absolutely appalling to my mind, and yet all the stats show us that elder abuse is something

which is becoming increasingly prevalent, so I think it is important that this is an issue placed on the national agenda, and certainly from Labor's point of view we'll engage in this conversation very constructively because we need to see some actions around this. It is really important that there are the appropriate protections in place for the most vulnerable in our community, and that is obviously our elderly.

PYNE: No doubt about it, Richard. Overwhelmingly, as people get older, your parents or your grandparents, families respond by being even more caring, but tragically 2-12% of older Australians, men and women almost equally, face some kind of abuse in their old age. Of course it's not necessarily physical abuse. It can be financial abuse. It can simply be being left to effectively grow old without any care and be neglected, so it is a significant issue. Christian Porter's announced this week that we'll have a national plan, a national approach to elder abuse. All the state and territory attorney-generals are on side. We've put \$15 million aside for this national plan to be developed, and over the course of the next few months we'll have a better idea about how governments should respond, but there's unfortunately these terrible stories, just like the one in *The Australian* this week about the woman who's allegedly been put to death much earlier than she should have faced her end. It just reminds us that we have to constantly be on the vigil.

MARLES: I think that's exactly right. It is a real [AUDIO BREAK] stories like that appearing, so it is important that we're dealing with this and it is important that we're dealing with it in a nationally consistent way. I think this is being raised in the right way and seeing this discussion going is a good thing.

That brings us to our break. Join us afterwards when we're going to have a chat with Jim Callinan.

[AD BREAK]

PYNE: Well, welcome back to Pyne & Marles here on Sky News Live. Our guest this afternoon is Jim Callinan from Fox Sports News. Jim, welcome to the program. Thanks for joining us.

JIM CALLINAN: Great to be with you guys, in such esteemed company. They don't let me anywhere close to politicians, usually, so this a great thrill.

PYNE: Indeed, it's a different world. The question I wanted to ask at the outset, Jim, was why is it that our Olympic organisers, whether it's the Summer Olympics or the Winter Olympics, always overpromise what they're going to deliver and then underdeliver it at the actual Olympics? Why wouldn't they do the opposite, which is downplay our chances and then declare victory when we do better?

CALLINAN: It's a good point. We used to do it pretty well a few decades ago, didn't we, when no-one really did expect much from us, but then came the Sydney Olympics of 2000 where we really did deliver big time on the global stage, so we thought every four years in terms of the Summer Olympics, and every other four years, if you like, on the Winter Olympic cycle, we would do the same, but it is so hard to live up to those expectations.

So we continue to do it because people want viewers as well, so we do tend to talk things up a little bit so we try and capture the nation as a whole, but it comes down to winning and losing. Quite frankly, at these ones we have underdelivered. We sit

22nd on the medal standings, I understand it, just moments ago, because competition is underway again, but no golds, and really just the three medals and not with the likelihood of any more coming before the closing ceremony, so you're right: we have underdelivered, you would have to say, on the scheme of things at this one, but we'll continue to do it because of the old we'll set the high water mark and see if we can reach it.

MARLES: [AUDIO BREAK] we did have a couple of Winter Olympics there where we were winning the odd gold medal. It appears as though we're not going to this time, but do you detect an interest out there in the community about these Winter Olympics? Is this a growing sport in Australia?

CALLINAN: It certainly is growing, because we came of such a low base, but as you mentioned lack of golds, it might surprise you: 2010 was the last time we actually did win a gold medal. It doesn't seem like it was that long ago, and we're about to go another four-year stretch without one, but certainly because no-one really expected a country like Australia to ever go close at a Winter Games when we started doing OK around the mid-to-late 90s, and of course with Alisa Camplin in 2002 and then Lydia Lassila not too long later, we just expected that it would continue to grow in terms of results, and I think what we're seeing is it is just so hard to win at these Games. We're up against nations who throw so much money at it, have so many more people competing in it. We really only have a winter season that lasts a couple of months, and the conditions aren't really the same as you would get overseas, so anyone that is good enough has to travel overseas, and that doesn't come without enormous backing and financial support, which I know you two gentlemen throw wholeheartedly with your respective weights with your particular parties to do that, but it is very difficult to then parley that into results. There still is going to be an amazing level of support and growing, but I think on a Winter Games we are a summer society, you'd have to think. When we talk winter we talk football codes and the like, not really Winter Olympics, so it is hard to keep people's enthusiasm on a four-year loop.

PYNE: We've just announced more money, as you know, for the Winter Olympics team-

CALLINAN: -Very good, very good. More to come I hope.

PYNE: -so we'll see where that takes us. Indeed!

Now, the other question, this big story at this year's Winter Olympics has been the North Korean-South Korean joint team. I think Richard's particularly taken with the North Korean cheer squad, but it does remind us that sport, and the Olympics in particular, has always punctuated world politics, whether it was the Berlin Olympics in the '30s; the Munich Games where the Israeli team was attacked by terrorists; then Moscow, the boycott because of the invasion of Afghanistan; now, in the Winter Olympics it's North Korea and South Korea. How much do you think sport can play a role in resolving political issues, as it appears to be helping on the Korean Peninsula, at least at the moment?

CALLINAN: Resolving political issues is probably a stretch. Certainly, getting two parties to meet: absolutely. We've seen it at the start of the Olympics in Korea. We've seen a unified Korea. We never would have imagined that only a few years ago.

Now, the IOC have played a particular role in this. Really, the long ground was furrowed some time ago when they announce South Korea as the venue for these Games. They thought they could play a particular role, and I'd have to say you gentlemen would agree that we would never have seen anyone from North Korea go south of the DMZ, yet we saw at the Opening Ceremony that was the case.

Now, it might have been an impersonator of the mighty leader of Korea, but certainly his sister and her party have been there. The cheer squad has been there in full flight as well, so have they resolved the tensions on the peninsula? No, but have they brought these parties closer together? Absolutely no doubt. Is this the start of some sort of cooling of tensions in the region? We all certainly hope so, but yet again sport has played a very big role in bringing these two parties together.

MARLES: I reckon that's right, Jim, and I think the Olympics over the journey has played a significant role in global diplomacy and global politics, and as you say at the beginning of this Olympics we had the North Korean number two meet with the South Korean number one. That's the highest level meeting there has been between the two nations and that occurred in the context of the Olympics, so it plays its role.

I am very taken with the North Korean cheer squad. I think cheer squads give us a sense of national identity. We saw the Icelandic crowd cheering for their team during the European football championships. We see the Barmy Army. Where do you rank the North Korean cheer squad in terms of their cultural contribution to world sport?

CALLINAN: Ooh, a very vexed question. The Barmy Army they are not, and the Viking clap, yes, very good for the Icelandic football team, no doubt, but they didn't miss a beat, did they, this Korean cheer squad. I'm sure many people have seen them in action. Look, I think that is very much part of where they come from, perhaps: everything in absolute unison; no-one out of step. I think that comes with perhaps the background of where they've grown up, but to be honest I think the guy that really stole the show was the impersonator, the Kim il-Jung (sic) impersonator who was there and even fooled the cheer squad we're talking about to a degree at some of the Games. He certainly made a name for himself, and if you believe what you read he's actually an Australian guy living in Hong Kong who made it all the way over to South Korea and made himself look very much like the esteemed leader of North Korea.

PYNE: In total unison, Jim, just like the Liberal Party.

CALLINAN: Is that right? Oh, OK, I'll take you on face value on that, Christopher.

MARLES: He did a fantastic job. What we need to see is synchronised cheering as an Olympic sport in the future.

Anyway, Jim, thank you for joining us, it has been nice and a treat, having a chat about the Winter Olympics. It's been dominating our TVs in terms of sport over the last couple of weeks, and we'll see where it goes in the future, but we really appreciate your time today.

CALLINAN: Pleasure, gents. Thanks for having me.

MARLES: No worries.

And that brings us to the question of the week, which is in part inspired by Nick Xenophon's ad during the South Australian election, and so the question of the week is: what is the best political ad we've seen.

So, Christopher, what do you reckon is the best political ad that you've seen?

PYNE: Well, Richard, if Nick Xenophon's ad is the most embarrassing political ad that I've ever seen, which I'm sure that it absolutely is, I absolutely love political ads. My children would be horrified for me to say that, of course, because it just confirms that I'm an enormous goober, but the truth is I love political ads. I even remember the jingles going back to *Turn on the lights, Liberal; We're not waiting for the world* in 1983; *Nobody ever got anywhere changing horses in midstream* in the Hawke election of '84, but I think my favourite political ads are the Reagan ads from the '80s, which was *There's a bear in the woods*, which I don't know if you remember but it was about the Soviet threat and how only Ronald Reagan could deal with it, and *It's morning in America*, which was again a Reagan ad celebrating what he said was the recession under the Democrats and how the Republicans had brought morning back to America again. One negative ad, one very positive ad. They were very effective, but what about yourself? What do you think are the best political ads that you remember?

MARLES: Well, I suppose it's hard to do the jobs we do without having an interest in this, but like you I think if I confessed that to my children it would confirm the sad specimen of a human being they already think I am, and it is interesting how-

PYNE: -That's true. It's true, actually.

MARLES: -it is interesting how themes recur. You mentioned the Hawke in 1984, and of course changing horses in midstream goes back to Abraham Lincoln's campaign in 1864 during the Civil War. The one I'd offer is Tracey. She was the Your Rights At Work campaign ad in 2007 talking about unfair dismissal laws. Seemed to me to go very viscerally to the issues of concern at that time. I reckon it had as much punch in that election as any ad there was.

But Christopher, we've run out of time. Great talking to you again this week. Look forward to talking to you again, and you viewers, next week at one o'clock on *Pyne & Marles*. Join us then on Sky News. We look forward to seeing you then.

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