

**THE HON RICHARD MARLES MP
SHADOW MINISTER FOR DEFENCE
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SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND
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WHO GETS JOBS? THE MATES GET JOBS

David Johnston is a man famous for one thing – talking down Australian defence industry. Today, the Liberal Government gave him a job selling Australian defence industry to the world.

If the Government was serious about supporting Australia's defence industry, their first Australian Defence Export Advocate would have been a serious person with a record of backing the industry. Instead, they've picked a man who said he wouldn't trust Australia's submarine builder "to build a canoe" – while he was the minister responsible.

Today's announcement feels like the Minister trying to win a bet about how inappropriate a person he could appoint.

Under the Liberals, Australia's unemployment queues have grown and grown – and so has the list of Liberal mates helped into government jobs.

The Liberals have a shameful record of using public offices to help out their political failure mates. That's how:

- Sophie Mirabella ended up a director at ASC;
- Peter Hendy ended up on the Commonwealth Grants Commission; and
- Natasha Griggs ended up being the administrator to Norfolk Island.

It's time the Liberals started using the power of government to help everyday Australians instead of using it to help out their mates

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Authorised by Noah Carroll ALP Canberra