



## **SCOTT MORRISON AT BARGO IMMIGRATION FORUM**

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Last night, Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume, hosted an immigration forum for the community in Bargo with Scott Morrison, the Shadow Minister for Immigration and Citizenship.

Mr Taylor said that the arrival of nearly 45 000 people under Labor since Kevin Rudd dismantled the Howard government's border protection policies, was now a humanitarian and policy disaster.

Mr Morrison acknowledged that the dismantling of the Howard government policies by Labor was driven by a sense of compassion. However he said that 45 000 people arriving by boats, including 6000 children, since that time "was not a compassionate outcome". Mr Morrison said:

"If I had said in 2007 that 45 000 boat people would arrive by boat in the next five years due to Labor's policies, they would have said I was mad. I would have been pilloried. Unfortunately, the outcome has exceeded even my worse expectations."

Mr Taylor said:

"We will reach 25,000 boat arrivals in the last 12 months to 30 June. And they are speeding up. More than 3000 people arrived on boats in April and another 3000 last month. That looks to be a new annual rate of towards 40 000.

"On Monday night on Q & A Mark Latham conceded openly that John Howard had it right, and that Labor's policies had been misguided since the time of his own leadership of the party.

"It has perhaps been put best by put Greg Sheridan of the Australian last week. He said that Labor's handling of this issue represented 'the most comprehensive policy failure since World War II'. Mr Sheridan also laid the blame entirely with Labor.

"As people on all sides of the political spectrum now agree, the boat arrivals threaten to overwhelm Australia's entire immigration program, they have national security implications, and there are monumental economic and social implications as well."

Mr Taylor referred to the sinking of a vessel near Christmas Island late last week, with the significant loss of life is a reminder of the risks associated with undertaking the risky journey to Australia and the dangers of using people smugglers.

Mr Taylor said:

“The coalition’s plan to restore order to Australia’s borders involves a return to policies that we know are effective. It won’t be easy, but the coalition will turn boats back to Indonesian waters where it is safe to do so, will re-institute temporary protection visas, and introduce mandatory jail sentences for people smugglers. Given time, and executed with consistency and clarity, we believe we have a suite of initiatives – which have worked before – will stop the boats from coming.”

At the community forum last night Mr Morrison emphasised that a further, very important plank for the coalition’s plans will be working with our regional partners – Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri-Lanka – to arrive at a regional solution to deter boats.

**Please contact Angus Taylor on 0413 963 113 if there are any queries.**