



JOINT PRESS RELEASE
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RESTORING SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL TO OUR BORDERS

A Coalition Government will reintroduce off shore processing of illegal boat arrivals in another country as part of series of measures to stop the boats and protect our borders.

The Coalition will restore the strong border protection regime that the Rudd Government has since abandoned.

Denying people smugglers a product to sell – permanent residency in Australia – is critical to crippling their business and stopping the flow of boat arrivals. Any policy that continues to provide an incentive to this business is neither tough nor compassionate.

In government, we will commence discussions to establish an off shore processing detention facility in another country. This off shore facility will be the destination for anyone seeking to enter Australia illegally by boat.

We will not prejudice these discussions by canvassing potential locations in opposition. These are matters that can only be canvassed government to government.

The Coalition will also reintroduce temporary protection visas and require those on these visas who receive benefits to make a contribution through a ‘work for benefits’ scheme, as is required of Australian citizens.

We will require those who have arrived legally on shore to once again make any claim within 45 days.

We will turn back boats where circumstances allow.

These policies have worked before to ensure that it is the Australian Government that decides who comes to our country and the circumstances under which they come – not people smugglers or those who have the means to pay them.

Since the Rudd Government abandoned these policies in August 2008, illegal boat arrivals have gone from three a year to more than three a week. This has led to a \$1 billion blow out in immigration detention costs around Australia.

Their record of 128 illegal boat arrivals carrying almost 6,000 people demonstrates that the Rudd Government has lost control of our borders.

The Coalition has a proven track record of being prepared to do what is necessary to control our borders and protect the integrity and fairness of our immigration system.

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