

Murdoch MacKenzie

*I have been a long time advocate for a nuclear free world and keeping war at bay is an important for preventing nuclear war.*

This submission is an argument in favour of an independent Australian foreign policy and in a change to the way Australia decides to go to war.

A. Australia has accompanied the USA in four recent wars that have ended disastrously. Australia joined these American adventures because it was considered in Australia's security interests, that it would come to Australia's assistance in times of need. But USA cannot be trusted. It, like all countries, looks after its own interests.

1. The USA intervenes in the name of freedom and democracy but actually is only interested in its own strategic ends.
2. It has abandoned allies and those who cooperate with them without compulsion.
3. Up to now in its wars it has failed to define an end point to the incursion, has failed to plan, foresee or implement adequate long term policies and its intelligence has frequently failed .

In the light of the above Australia should be more circumspect and cautious about future calls to assist other countries in warlike endeavours. Our security would be best served with civil diplomacy, exact and detailed attention to the limits to which we will deploy our forces and exact, unbiased intelligence.

B. The present arrangement where the executive government makes the decision to go to war is inadequate. It does not represent the Australian population.

I suggest that such decisions should be made by an assembly made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate sitting, deliberating and voting together as a single unit.