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*In the last 60 years I have seen Australia follow the US into wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. These wars have cost millions of lives and done untold structural and economic damage to participants.*

All countries including Australia, who have chosen to follow the US into war have done so via the decision of politicians. The people who bear the brunt of economic, social and emotional damage have no say in these decisions. The wars have benefited no one except the sellers and manufacturers of arms and military equipment.

It is time that the lies of American imperialism and the need for endless wars to fuel the world's military industrial complex are laid bare for all the world to see as utter failure in the quest for World Peace. The simple truth that violence begets violence could not be more obvious to me in the wars of the last 60 years as we followed America into unwinnable war after unwinnable war.

I propose that the decision to go to war be taken out of the hands of politicians. There are a number of proposals current as to how this might happen. Any of them would be better than the disasters of the last 60 years. Diplomacy needs to be a first resort, not war.