

Michael Pilbrow

ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION ON AUKUS

The single biggest issue with the AUKUS trilateral security partnership between Australia, the US and the UK is that it locks Australia into - in the Prime Minister's words - a 'forever' partnership with the United States. It removes any possibility for Australia to have an independent foreign and defence policy for the foreseeable future. Tragically, this means that our nation will likely be drawn into any future offensive wars that the US enters or starts...at great cost to Australian taxpayers, our men and women in uniform and civilians in other nations.

The cancelling of the French submarine deal is a good thing - they were expensive, slow in arriving and the case for their purchase was never made to the community in a way that respects our democracy. The cancelling of a contract is, in itself, nothing unusual and should not be the source of tears.

Had the decision stopped here, it would've been worth celebrating. Sadly, it was spoilt by the decision to buy another expensive submarine fleet with no involvement or persuasion of the community, and no explanation of where the money is coming from.

My only recommendation - or wishful thinking - is that the Government reconsiders the AUKUS deal and takes some time to read the IPAN Inquiry Report and set a new direction in foreign and defence policy that is focused on peace and building strong relationships and alliances with many countries, and not tying Australia's future to a single country, the USA.