

I submit to the Inquiry that the exchange of nuclear propelled submarine information will not make Australia or the world more safe but will increase the likelihood of nuclear war involving China, the US and Australia.

Nuclear propelled submarines are designed to operate far from Australia and would threaten China and the survivability of Chinese submarines.

This agreement will tie Australia even more firmly to US military operations.

The US is squaring up for a military confrontation with China and any military conflict would be highly likely to become a nuclear war.

Therefore by operating in concert with the US the proposed nuclear-powered subs will increase the possibility of such a war.

Instead Australia should be taking steps to decrease the possibility of such a war by lessening our involvement with US military operations and through diplomatic and political means making clear our opposition to military conflict between the US and China.

One vital step that should be taken is for the Australian government to advocate to the US Biden administration that the US adopt a declared policy of No First Use (or Sole Purpose) with respect to nuclear weapons. Currently only China and India have declared policies of No First Use.

The US is currently undergoing its Nuclear Posture Review so support from a close ally like Australia for this declaration by the US would carry considerable weight.