

SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT

Like many other Australians I find it extremely undemocratic that the Prime Minister (and Cabinet) is able to commit Australia as a nation, and the people as a whole, to a war without any kind of discussion in the Parliament. It is this Parliament that reflects the fact of our democracy, neither the PM nor the Cabinet. As a consequence of this we have been committed over the years to international conflict most Australians do not support and at great cost to our people, our young men and women serving as soldiers and to our reputation as a nation. By requiring the Parliament to approve any commitment to war the people are assured of at least some wider reflection on the need for this declaration of war, for its purpose and aims, and for an appreciation of the potential outcomes.

I would urge the Parliament to assert its democratic right and responsibility to limit any declaration of Australia at war to those that the Parliament as a whole approves.

Peter Valentine 21 September, 2021.