

Honourable Senators,

*I thank you for allowing me to add my voice **against** the proposed Bill.*

The uniqueness of military service, and the calling to the Profession of Arms has often been remarked upon. Indeed, each and every Government has, at some time, remarked that "military service is of the highest calling our country can ask of its citizens". An understanding that the Government will take care of military personnel once they retire from the services, is an unrecognized catalyst in the decision to undertake military service. Not only does each Government have the responsibility to ensure that the forces are properly trained to handle any situation into which they may order the serviceman/woman, but that same Government has the responsibility to ensure that the best possible care is taken of those people once they become an ex-serviceman, whether he/she is a "veteran" or not. We have carried out our part of the arrangement, now we expect those honourable members who make up our Parliament to carry out their part. We are not asking you to put yourselves into harm's way, but we are asking you to execute your moral responsibility to honour the conditions which were agreed when we joined the services.

With this in mind as well as the understanding that as DFRB/DFRDB schemes are unfunded, and therefore, as stated.... "must be treated separately to all other Commonwealth superannuation schemes" why is the Government wanting to change the arrangement? I carried out my part for 25 years, even though, at times, I wished I could change the arrangement, (as Whitlam and Keating did to my detriment) but I persevered....I now ask you to honour my service, and not allow this Bill to proceed.

The funds are already consolidated into the Future Fund, with an Act of Parliament providing the Governance for its management. Leave it that way.

The idea of putting 3 ACTU Directors, only two Defence Directors and then five Directors appointed by the Minister for Finance, is frankly, alarming, and another reason why this Bill must not be passed.

The management of Military Superannuation Scheme under which I joined the service has been manipulated to my detriment enough times over the years 1965 -1990.....leave it alone.

In summary then, I object most strongly to the merging of all military superannuation schemes as desired by the Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010.

Many regards,

*Peter Weyling
Ex LCDR (SDEN) ME RAN*