

Dear Committee Members

I would like to offer my view on Australia's support for Ukraine.

From my reading, I understand that Australia has received an unexpected benefit from Russia's war on Ukraine. This includes our filling the gap in the grain market across Africa and the Middle East which Ukraine left due to Russia's bombing and destruction of cargo ships and grain storage facilities.

The other area where Australia received a massive surplus in our budget was from filling-in some of the oil and gas supplies which the sanctions against Russia created and which Australia was able to meet.

This surplus amounted to almost \$50 billion p.a. since 2022 from what I understand. If this figure is not absolutely correct then the true figure is not far from this.

With this enormous benefit to our budget can we not allocate at least some generous percentage towards Ukraine's desperate need to evict the aggressive Russian troops out of Ukrainian territory.

Surely our moral responsibility is to see Ukraine freed from Russian tyranny so it can continue on its path to full membership of the European Union as well as NATO.

Ukraine was given assurances in the formal agreement in 1994 that the US and UK would protect Ukraine in the event of Russian invasion. Russia also signed that agreement but of course it had no intention of sticking with that agreement particularly after Putin came to power.

In return for this protection from Russia, Ukraine gave up its only bargaining chip with Russia — the world's third largest cache of nuclear weapons. Ukraine, as a newly liberated country, was of the belief that democracies around the world would want to protect it if and when it became necessary.

Well that time has come and the democracies of the world have not delivered anywhere near the level of protection required and certainly not in a timely, comprehensive and coordinated manner. How many lives could have been saved if all the democracies had pulled together quickly to drive out the Russians before they embarked on unleashing hell on Ukraine?

If it came to pass that Australia needed protection from an invading country would we be disappointed with support such as what has been given to Ukraine - often too little too late? I would say we'd be devastated.

For those that advocate "peace" I say "peace at what cost?" Ukrainians don't want to be ruled by Russia. They want to join NATO for protection - now more obviously needed than ever.

I ask the committee to think globally about this issue and understand the long-term ramifications of this evil act by Russia on Ukraine.

Anonymous

Due to fear of Russian repercussion