

I am an Australian citizen who has been following the situation loosely since 2014 and closely since 2022. I am absolutely appalled and outraged at our disgraceful support response since the 2014 annexation of Crimea and the 2022 invasion proper of Ukraine by Russia.

As a direct outcome of this ongoing conflict, the Russian military murdered 27 Australian citizens on flight MH17. Australians remember. This is our fight too.

Australia has not decided that we want Ukraine to win. The summation of our contributions lately is a resounding, pitiful shrug.

The free world has been dragging feet at every opportunity, drip feeding capabilities to Ukraine due to political interference and a cowardly fear of escalation. Fear is understandable when your cities are in range of Putin's missiles. Australia, being a long distance from the fight and without trade or energy dependence, owned both a coward's excuse and a leader's opportunity. Australia could have safely forged the path for Europe and broken the aircraft taboo from day one. Imagine our Prime Minister announcing Twenty Seven FA18 Super Hornets to Ukraine, signed sealed and delivered, in memory of each murdered Australian. How different would the battlefield maps be, with crystal clear resolve and incredible support two years on?

Instead, Ukraine still does not have modern fighters after two entire years of heavy metal war with a supposed superpower. Collectively we trained Ukrainian soldiers on NATO doctrine and gave them zero air support on which the doctrine depends. Without air cover, the counteroffensive fails. Without aerial deterrent, Russian air launched bombs wipe out entire defences and we see Ukraine retreating on the battlefield. Our inaction costs lives and helps Russia persist with their madness.

As for other missed opportunities, Australia has considered and failed to send

- Taipan helicopters
- FA18 aircraft
- Hawkei vehicles
- other undisclosed platforms

Why is the Taipan fleet scrap metal? I watched in utter disbelief as ADF brass testified they aren't reliable enough? How impossibly arrogant of us to tell the Ukrainians what is good for them. Did we consider that helicopters aren't enjoying full life expectancy in Ukraine right now? Give the Ukrainians the facts and let them decide if the platform is useful to them. Get any left into Ukrainian hands.

Australia has 1000+ Hawkeis without working brakes? Honestly, are you kidding me? Disgraceful any way you look at it. Are we lying or are we incompetent or both? Get some into Ukrainian hands.

We have 59 M1A1 Abrams tanks due to be replaced this year, please for the love of god get them into Ukrainian hands.

It is public record that the Hawkei and Bushmaster platforms were produced in

excess to maintain factory capacity and workforce skill. All of these excess units should be in Ukraine!

Every delay helps Russia. Every delay more Ukrainians die. Every delay the world gets a little less safe. Every delay regimes grow bolder and the allies of Russia start fires in Yemen and Israel and wherever next to distract and dissuade us.

We cannot afford to let Ukraine fall to indifference and embolden other predators around the world. We either pay for and deliver meaningful support immediately, or we will be sending our children later. Our treatment of Ukraine to date has been embarrassingly unaustralian.

David Evans