

Dear Senators,

Things are really moving fast on the nuclear front, aren't they? I recently sent a detailed submission against the private member's nuclear energy bill. My point was to not allow Australia to become a nuclear state.

Then there was the inquiry to change the Defence Act. I contributed a well-researched and clear-headed analysis of why Australia needs to remain a sovereign nation with a Defence Force capable of defending Australia - not being offensive against friendly trading nations and friendly neighbours going about their own business of looking after their own people and their own national interests. We have no enemies but we ***will have if*** we continue to rattle sabres against our best trading partners.

So: my response to this latest 'defensive' sleight of hand moving Australia closer to being a nuclear target is short and sweet: Don't change any of our domestic legislations to make us a colony of the US or UK. We are a part of Asia. We are nowhere near America or Europe and what we share with these Neo-colonialists is fear and self-loathing - not hope for a multipolar world.

We need more common sense brought back - not governments throwing ***our*** money, self-respect, self-determination and national identity and sovereignty down the drain to appear bigger, more brutish and more powerful than we are or need to be. We need to re-establish ourselves as social democrats and provide better social conditions to allow the more vulnerable in our society to feel more healthy. Australians need to celebrate our well-being and be provided with better public housing, better public health services, free quality public education and an ability to protect our unique and beautiful natural environment so that it can protect us. Environmental legislations need to be stronger to protect the environment. They do not need to be changed to make nuclear waste dumps and to hide evidence of nuclear pollution.

Any changes to the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998 should be to guarantee that work, health and safety of people, other animals and the environment are not exposed to radiation and nuclear energy and the same should be guaranteed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. There should be no dispensation, especially from the military church, for a 'naval nuclear propulsion plant related to use in a conventionally-armed, nuclear-powered submarine'.

Australia, its people and its environment don't need nuclear propelled defence vehicles or equipment - especially when we don't have the ability to safely store the end-of-life propulsion unit for its thousands of years term of life. We don't need to shoulder the cost of America's and Britain's past and future mistakes of illegal armed conflict by paying to take their almost obsolete planes, boats and submarines and polluting our land and sea with them.

Stop AUKUS! Stop Quad! Stop helping the US and UK victimise our journalists and peacemakers! Australia is far better off not playing around with nuclear power. Renew Australian energy with renewable energy - not nuclear propulsion!

Respectfully,

Diana

*Diana Rickard Community Peace, Justice and Sustainability Educator Top End Peace Alliance*