



*To:*

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Reference:

**Agreement among the Government of Australia, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Government of the United States of America for Cooperation Related to Naval Nuclear Propulsion AUKUS.**

***My submission is as follows:***

*AUKUS. This is a horror for which I now fear for the lives of my children and their children.*

This is now changing the direction of Australia for the next forty or fifty years.

We have never seen anything like this in peacetime Australia. At any stage.

This must not stand.

The horrors of AUKUS

Firstly, the automatic involvement in war.

We have already been tied to the United States by the bases – by Pine Gap, by North West Cape, by the Space Surveillance Telescope that take us into space warfare, by the many other Australian bases to which the US has access.

We are already tied in, hard-wired in many cases, to the American war machine.

And the ADF is barely an autonomous force today.

But AUKUS takes us very much further down that road.

We already know what the submarines are there for.

This is a politically-driven, call-from-Washington-inspired scheme for long-range, long-endurance nuclear-powered submarines whose only rational use is to attack China.

The AUKUS submarines will not be here to defend Australia, but only to attack China in a subordinate role with the American forces.

What could \$368 billion in funding – \$12 billion per annum for the next 30 years – fund for Australia and Australians?

That is the question Australians must ask.

With Australia facing the most severe housing crisis in our history, rising cost of living, increasing inequality, the pressing need to reform our schools, health, disability and aged care systems, and the critical need to transform our energy systems and reduce our carbon emissions to net zero, we face a choice.

Do we buy guns in support of an American led war of aggression? Or commit that funding to the wellbeing of our people?

What, could \$368 billion dollars achieve in developing relations with our close neighbour, Indonesia, and the Association of South East Asian Nations?

Do we forget that any possible aggression – and there is absolutely no sign of it – from China, would be first experienced by our ASEAN neighbours?

*I believe AUKUS must not stand.*

*Regards*

*Robert Coney*

