

Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion) Bill 2023

Submission to the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation

To whom this concerns:

I write to express my objection to the Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion) Bill 2023. This bill would facilitate the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines in Australia's defence force, which would be an erosion of protection to Australians provided by two previous Acts: the 'Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act, 1998' and the 'Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, 1999'. In my view, this erosion of protection is unjustified, especially in view of the reality that the people of Australia were not consulted about the tripartite AUKUS agreement, which stands behind this amendment bill, nor was partnership in AUKUS voted upon in the Parliament of Australia.

First things first, in my view. Before this Defence Legislation Amendment (Naval Nuclear Propulsion) Bill 2023 is debated further in Parliament, the Australian Parliament should initiate an inquiry into how Australia, without the consent of its people and without a vote in Parliament, came to find itself a partner in the tripartite AUKUS agreement.

Yours sincerely,

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