

Subject: Potential Dual Citizens: Removal of Australian citizenship as protective measure lacks supportive evidence
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What is the purpose of making citizens who have just Australian citizenship but could apply for citizenship of another nation liable to the loss of their Australian citizenship under certain circumstances?

The argument that it would protect Australian residents against terrorism seems weak.

Why are potential dual nationals a greater threat than nationals or foreigners? There does not seem to be any evidence that they are.

Does removing citizenship from a potential dual national offer any additional protection over removing a passport or pursuing through legal means? Again there seems to be no evidence that removing citizenship is more protective than removing passports or applying the law.

On the downside, making potential dual nationals liable to the loss of their Australian citizenship creates a two-class system of citizenship: those like me who are fifth or sixth generation Australian and could not lose citizenship and those like my wife and many other loyal Australians who were born here but could apply for the citizenship of another nation and so could be made liable to the loss of Australian citizenship.

On the face of it, creating a two-class citizenship system would seem to be unduly divisive in what has been to date a relatively harmonious settler society.

If the purpose is to protect Australian citizens against terrorism, due consideration should be given to the potential for such a measure to be counter-productive.

If the purpose is to punish dual nationals and/or to gain political capital then again due consideration should be given to the potential for such a measure to have the unintended consequence of alienating people who would otherwise remain loyal Australian citizens.

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