

Members of the Treaties Committee,

While significant, I believe that the AUKUS treaty is nothing more than a political show by the Prime Minister and Defence Minister to gain support of the public.

The secretive announcement was leaked to News Outlets the night before. It came across as if there was a threat to National Security. It turned out to be an announcement of sharing technology that the United States and the United Kingdom considers top secret. It has also caused a diplomatic blowout with the French Government.

While the Defence Force updating its submarine fleet with nuclear powered submarines is significant, I do not believe that the AUKUS Treaty is as necessary or significant as the Prime Minister has made it out to be. I trust that the Defence Force would know what it needs and will need to protect our nation, however the AUKUS Treaty in my honest opinion brings nothing new to the table other than undermining Australia's interests.

I would like to present the following points:

- As Australia has no Nuclear Industry, the country:
  - Cannot produce the Uranium needed to power the Submarines, and therefore would need to import it
  - Does not have the workforce to maintain Nuclear Powered Submarines, and therefore would need assistance from the United States and the United Kingdom
  - Would need to decide how it will dispose of Nuclear Waste
- New Zealand has a zero nuclear policy and has already made clear that the proposed submarines will not be permitted in their waters. This reduces Australia's capacity to work with New Zealand and ability to defend waters in Oceania
- The workforce in South Australia has lost its contracts and therefore has lost a significant number of jobs. This lowers Australia's manufacturing ability which is highly critical during a wartime scenario.

The above points support the suggestion that the AUKUS Treaty lowers Australia's Sovereignty and harms Australia's National Security.

If the Treaty is only meant to cover the sharing of propulsion nuclear technology, the Federal Government will need to announce a thorough plan to address the above issues and possibly others I have not mentioned. This must be done before the AUKUS Treaty can go ahead.

This Treaty stinks of hasty poor thinking and consideration.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my submission.

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