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Terrorist acts, whether perpetrated by Al Qaeda or states are terrible for those affected and their families and friends. However, for the rest of us, it is just background noise. Since 1990, around 6,000 have been killed in terrorist attacks including 2,800 in the World Trade Center. According to New Internationalist magazine, around 24,000 children die of hunger every day of the year. Since 1990, almost 30,000 people have died on Australia's roads. In 2002, 12 times as many people in Australia committed suicide as died in the Bali bombing. Every one of these deaths causes pain and suffering. While terrorist attacks are terrible, and to be prevented if possible, it is time to start treating them as a minor risk among the many we face and stop letting them dominate our lives. We should not allow our long earned freedoms to be eroded by political scare mongers like Carr, Ruddock and Ashcroft. Above all we need to do much more to address the causes of terrorism, for example in Palestine, and avoid knee-jerk reactions to terrorist acts, exemplified by the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.