

# PEACE, DISARMAMENT, AND DEMILITARISATION

## A fairer and safer world: peace and prosperity, not more weapons and war

Australia's wars cost lives, billions of dollars and make huge profits for the war industry.

The climate crisis means we need a new approach to keep people safe.

The Greens will cut wasteful defence spending, and cancel failed defence procurement programs. We will give Parliament the power to decide whether we go to war or not, and we will ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

It's time to stop handing public money to corporate weapons makers, refocus our defence forces on keeping people safe from the climate crisis, and build cooperative relationships with our friends and neighbours.

### THE GREENS WILL:

- ▲ **Renegotiate the US alliance and let Parliament decide whether we go to war** to prevent us from being dragged in to senseless violence and conflict
- ▲ **Reduce military spending** and redirect this money where it is needed most
- ▲ **Develop a climate security white paper** to coordinate a response to ongoing large-scale climate risks
- ▲ **End the Coalition's commitment to making Australia a global arms dealer** by abolishing the Defence Export Facility
- ▲ **Invest \$10 million to promote peace and non-violent conflict resolution, and ban military advertising** to ensure the truth of war is told

## Renegotiate the US alliance and let Parliament decide if we go to war

The current US alliance is not making us any safer.<sup>1</sup> We have outsourced our decision-making to a country that has a history of military follies.

The Liberal and Labor parties have formed a dangerous consensus to appease the US by increasing military spending. In doing so, they have given up on rational defence policy, instead conflating it with industry policy.

Hedless support for the US and more machines of war is not the right path. Genuine peace rests on parliamentary scrutiny, international cooperation and development, and respect for human rights. A country as wealthy and as fortunate as Australia should be an international champion of multilateral moves towards peace and disarmament.

### The Greens will:

- Renegotiate the US alliance with the terms of a new relationship focused on making Australia safer and a better global citizen;
- Pass War Powers legislation to require Parliamentary approval for decisions that commit Australia to war;
- Close all foreign military bases in Australia;
- Sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty; and

<sup>1</sup> See: Fraser (with Roberts), *Dangerous Allies*, 2014.

- Ban the development and use of lethal autonomous weapons in line with the international campaign 'Stop Killer Robots'.<sup>2</sup>

## Putting human rights at the centre of foreign policy

The Australian Greens will adopt a human-rights centred approach to foreign policy. That starts with using diplomatic relationships to advocate for human rights around the world, and strengthening multilateral relationships based on a commitment to human rights. The Australian Greens will support the passage of Magnitsky-style legislation to target those who commit serious human rights abuses, and protect human rights around the world.

## Cut military spending

The Liberal and Labor parties are in lockstep over increased spending on warfare. Both parties support the arbitrary target of defence spending equalling 2% of GDP, and as of now we are on track to exceed that commitment.<sup>3</sup> We are spending \$122.2 million per day on defence.<sup>4</sup>

Billions of dollars are being thrown at weapons manufacturers with little scrutiny. Many of the government's costly acquisitions will be obsolete by the time they are deployed. All of

<sup>2</sup> See Campaign to Stop Killer Robots <https://www.stopkillerrobots.org/learn/>

<sup>3</sup> See the 2021 Intergenerational Report [https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-06/p2021\\_182\\_464.pdf](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-06/p2021_182_464.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> See the Australian Strategic Policy Institute's 2021-22 Cost of Defence report [The cost of Defence ASPI defence budget brief 2021–2022 | Australian Strategic Policy Institute | ASPI](https://www.aspi.org.au/publications/the-cost-of-defence-aspi-defence-budget-brief-2021-2022)

this taking place while the threat of attack on Australia remains unchanged.

The Greens believe we should stop wasting money and redirect these funds where they are needed. Our plan will save us \$313 billion out to 2010-32, allowing us to reinvest this money into things that will genuinely keep us safe.<sup>5</sup>

### We have a plan to:

- Reduce defence spending to 1% of nominal GDP by 2025-26 by reducing the size and speed of planned procurement programs, and ensuring that Australia has a light, readily deployable and highly mobile force that is commensurate with our size and location;
- Invest \$5 million to develop a climate security white paper to guide a coordinated and large-scale response to climate change risks. This will ensure Australia's defence forces are prepared for humanitarian and peacekeeping missions in the region, given that climate change looms as a threat multiplier and an ongoing trigger for instability and humanitarian crises;<sup>6</sup> and
- Use the current Defence budget to increase oversight of defence procurement by establishing a Parliamentary Defence Office to provide independent advice to Members of Parliament.

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<sup>5</sup> PBO reference PR20/00166

<sup>6</sup> See Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade inquiry report into the Implications of climate change for Australia's national security, 2018 [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign\\_Affairs\\_Defence\\_and\\_Trade/Nationalsecurity/Final\\_Report](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Foreign_Affairs_Defence_and_Trade/Nationalsecurity/Final_Report)

## End the Coalition's commitment to making Australia a global arms dealer

The Coalition Government, supported by Labor, is intent on making Australia a top 10 global arms exporter.<sup>7</sup>

Despite the government's rhetoric, the 'Defence Export Facility' has no proven link to local job creation.<sup>8</sup> Instead, it taints Australia's global reputation and makes us complicit in overseas atrocities, like war crimes committed by the Saudi regime in Yemen.<sup>9</sup>

The Greens will immediately abolish the Defence Export Facility, and introduce legislation that prohibits Australia from exporting weapons.

## Promote peace and ban military advertising

Sensationalised imagery and advertising propagated by weapons manufacturers and beneficiaries of war fail to tell the truth on the real costs of war. We must be honest about what war is and what it does to people and communities, and we must build our understanding of what peace means across our cultural institutions.

### To achieve this, the Greens will:

- End proactive public recruitment advertising campaigns by the Australian

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<sup>7</sup> Defence Export Strategy 2018

<sup>8</sup> Productivity Commission, Trade and Assistance 2016-17.

<sup>9</sup> Defence Export Facility, 2018, [Supporting global defence projects | Export Finance Australia](#)

Defence Forces, particularly those that target children and school leavers. This will save us \$47.5 million per year out to 2031-32.

- Redirect funding that these programs receive to peace-based education initiatives;
- Ban all public advertising by weapons manufacturers. These companies are responsible for the proliferation of violence across the world. Their advertising campaigns are often targeted at parliamentarians to put pressure on them to support increasing expenditure on their weapons;
- Scrap the \$498 million War Memorial redevelopment and end arms manufacturer and corporate sponsorship of the War Memorial;<sup>10</sup> and
- Invest \$10 million over four years to promote peace and the importance of non-violent conflict resolution in our national institutions.

credible evidence of war crimes allegedly committed by Australian Special Forces personnel during the Afghanistan war;

- ▲ Worked with the community for the establishment of a Royal Commission into Veterans' Suicide;
- ▲ Campaigned alongside the Canberra community against the destruction and corporatisation of the Australian War Memorial.

## FIND ALL OUR POLICIES:

[greens.org.au/platform](https://greens.org.au/platform)

## HOW THE GREENS HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR YOU

### In the last parliament, it was the Greens who:

- ▲ Introduced War Powers legislation which would require both houses of parliament to vote before deploying our defence forces overseas;
- ▲ Pushed for truth and accountability following the release of the
- ▲ The Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force Afghanistan Inquiry Report, the Brereton Report, which found

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<sup>10</sup> ABC, Australian War Memorial's \$500m redevelopment clears final hurdle despite wave of public opposition  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-07/australian-war-memorial-expansion-given-approval-early-works/100196328>