

# PEACE AND DEMILITARISATION

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

Australians want peace and global prosperity, not more weapons and war. We must give Parliament the power to decide if we go to war and we must renegotiate the alliance with the US. Instead of buying bigger and more expensive equipment, we should be preparing our defence force for climate change and to provide humanitarian support in our region. Australia should also contribute our fair share to international aid and limit our role as a global arms dealer.



## THE GREENS WILL:

- Renegotiate the US alliance and **let Parliament decide whether we go to war**
- **Reduce military spending** to bring it into line with historic levels
- **End the Coalition's plan** to make Australia a global arms dealer
- **Increase Australia's aid** and development budget to 0.7% of Gross National Income by 2030
- Establish an independent development oversight agency and **reinstate the Ministerial position for International Development and the Pacific.**

## 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 and that is now commanded by Donald Trump.

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.

Blind support for the US and more machines of war is not the right path. Genuine security 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;
- Introduce War Powers legislation to require Parliamentary approval for decisions that commit Australia to war;
- Close all foreign military bases in Australia; and
- Sign and ratify the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.



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

## 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. 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 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.

### We have a plan to:

- Return defence spending to long-term trend levels 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;
- 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;
- Increase oversight of defence procurement by establishing a Parliamentary Defence Office to provide independent advice to Members of Parliament; and
- Ban weapons advertising in public places designed to pressure Members of Parliament to spend more taxpayer dollars on expensive defence equipment.



## END THE COALITION'S PLAN TO MAKE AUSTRALIA A GLOBAL ARMS DEALER

The Coalition government, supported by Labor, is intent on making Australia a top 10 global arms exporter. Our government has shamefully committed almost \$4 billion to assist arms exporters to do deals with human rights abusers like Saudi Arabia.<sup>2</sup>

Despite the government's rhetoric, the 'Defence Export Facility' has no proven link to local job creation.<sup>3</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>4</sup>

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



## INCREASE AID AND DEVELOPMENT TO 0.7% GNI BY 2030, ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT AGENCY AND REINSTATE A MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE PACIFIC

Australians are generous and want their government to provide care and support for those in developing countries.<sup>5</sup> Despite this, successive Coalition and Labor governments have slashed Australian aid by billions of dollars, so that we have now reached historically low levels.<sup>6</sup>

The Greens will reverse this trend; increasing our aid and development budget to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2030. This will bring Australia into line with other developed countries like the UK, the Netherlands and Denmark, and will ensure that we fulfil our commitment to the United Nations.<sup>7</sup>

The Parliamentary Budget Office has costed this policy at an additional \$10 billion over the forward estimates. This increase in our aid budget will also allow us to give generously in the event of natural disasters or conflicts requiring major humanitarian interventions.

In addition, the Greens will commit climate finance of \$1.32 billion in 2019-20 and \$1.6 billion per year of the forward estimates thereafter, additional to the aid budget.

To oversee Australia's aid budget, the Greens will establish an independent, dedicated government agency as part of machinery of government changes and reinstate a Minister for International Development and the Pacific.

<sup>2</sup> The Guardian, Australia unveils plan to become one of the world's top ten arms exporters, 29/10/18,

<sup>3</sup> Productivity Commission, Trade and Assistance 2016-17.

<sup>4</sup> Defence Export Facility, 2018, <<https://www.efic.gov.au/what-we-do/project-corporate-and-buyer-finance/defence-export-facility/>>

<sup>5</sup> The Sydney Morning Herald, Majority support for Australia's overseas aid: poll, 4/05/18

<sup>6</sup> The Guardian, In Australia's historically low aid budget, Pacific gets lion's share, 9/05/18

<sup>7</sup> The UK, Denmark and the Netherlands have all reached 0.7% GNI, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals call for that target to be reached by 2030.