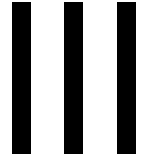




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Freedom and a peaceful future



DEMOCRATS FOR PEACE

WHY THE AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS OPPOSED THE IRAQ WAR

- All reasonable avenues of peaceful resolution were not exhausted.
- Thousands of innocent civilians have been killed and maimed with many more likely to die from a lack of food, water and health facilities.
- No case was made that Iraq was a threat to any other nation, was responsible for terrorist acts in the United States or Bali, or that weapons inspections or the policy of containment were not working.
- War against Iraq was illegal without United Nations mandate.
- The doctrine of preemptive strike puts at great risk the international rule of law.
- Experienced military and diplomatic personnel warned against both starting a war and Australia's involvement.
- This war has increased Australia's vulnerability to terrorist and extremist attacks and will make it more difficult for us to work cooperatively with countries in our own region in preventing terrorism.
- The war and its aftermath is likely to cost Australia around \$1 billion.



WHY WE MUST ASSIST WITH AID

- The Australian Government's promised aid to Iraq is meagre compared to the cost of our military involvement there.
- The Iraqi people need assistance to rebuild governance structures and re-establish their nation as a full member of the international community.

- Australia should participate in mine-clearing and peace-keeping under the auspices of the United Nations.
- While we welcome the end of the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein, this war is unlikely to foster lasting peace in the region. We now need to restore not just the rule of law in Iraq, but the rule of law internationally.
- Australia should dramatically increase its spending on aid and humanitarian assistance around the world, including in our own region. Investment in peace is much more sustainable than in war.

HOW WE CAN PROMOTE PEACE

- The Democrats support our troops but not the decision to send them to Iraq. We support peaceful protests aimed at the Howard Government, not the defence community.
- The Howard Government was the first in Australia's history to go to war without Parliamentary support. The Democrats have introduced legislation requiring Parliament's consent before Australian troops can be committed to overseas conflicts, except for normal peacetime activities and emergencies.
- Australia must adopt a more independent foreign policy and work more closely with countries in our own region and with the United Nations, rather than rely so heavily on our alliance with the US.
- Australia must promote global disarmament of weapons of mass destruction.



HAVE YOUR SAY

Do you support the Prime Minister having the power to send Australian troops to an overseas war without the consent of Parliament? (Please tick one box)

Yes No

Would you like to receive information on the Democrats proposed legislation to ensure Parliament's consent is needed to commit Australian troops to an overseas war?

Yes No

Would you like to receive regular updates on the Democrats' parliamentary work?

Yes No

Surname _____ Title _____

Given Name _____

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