

Diplomacy and foreign policy

I agree that diplomacy is a critical tool for supporting Australia's national security and interests, and is essential for shaping a peaceful world. I support increased investment and resources for DFAT to improve Australia's diplomatic capability. Additionally, I believe Australia must adopt a genuinely independent security posture bolstered by, and not beholden to, strong international partnerships. A strong focus must be brought to peacebuilding, diplomacy, and climate-mitigation. I have raised these matters in Parliament and will continue to do so.

War reform

I have been pushing for war powers reform for many years. I believe the decision to send Australians to war cannot continue to rest with the Prime Minister alone because such a serious matter deserves a level of scrutiny only achieved through rigorous parliamentary debate. In Parliament in late 2021 I urged the Prime Minister to reform our war powers and ensure parliamentary scrutiny of the decision to deploy our troops overseas. Australians understand going to war is the most momentous decision that can be made on their behalf, and in a democracy it is their elected representatives who should have that responsibility.

Climate change

I believe we need to take urgent action on climate change in order to reach net zero emissions as fast as possible, ie by 2035 or sooner. To that end we must rule out any new fossil-fuel projects, immediately start to wind down coal, gas and oil production and genuinely fast track renewables. Subsidies to fossil fuel companies must end immediately, with investment instead channelled to renewable energy projects.

Military spending

I am concerned by the Government's defence wastage and inefficiencies when Australia's genuine and pressing issues are not being addressed, like dealing with climate change, repairing our run-down health and education systems, and ensuring everyone has a roof over their head. The billions of dollars wasted on the French submarines project is a case in point. I am also concerned that Australia seeks to make defence and military technology one of Australia's top exports without oversight or genuine interest in where Australian-made weapons and equipment ends up.

Domestic emergency response

I support the re-evaluation of the military's role in disaster response and the facilitation of a comprehensive and well-resourced civilian capacity to respond to domestic emergencies. This is even more critical given the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events linked to climate change. I support federal financial assistance for civilian non-governmental agencies trained in rapid response and humanitarian assistance and believe the Government must develop comprehensive adaptation and disaster resilience plans as a matter of urgency.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

In relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325, I strongly support the promotion of gender equality in international peace and security. I believe the Government needs to work harder to ensure women are at the table during peace negotiations, security decisions and policy-making and to reduce gender-based sexual violence during conflict. While the Australian Second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was introduced in 2021, implementation has been slow and ad-hoc. I believe the Government must increase investment in national and international women's rights and leadership organisations, increase targeted aid and development assistance to support women and children, and set and reach much more ambitious targets for female participation in national security and international relations roles in Australia and overseas.