

It is 100 seconds to midnight

**Prohibition and elimination of nuclear
weapons, peace and security in Asia:
a perspective from Australia**

Tilman Ruff AO

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (Nobel Peace Prize 1985)

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Nobel Peace Prize 2017)

School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne

World Conference Against A&H Bombs Hiroshima and Nagasaki 5 August 2022

Vienna Declaration

Our commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons

23 June 2022

“... despite the terrible risks, and despite their legal obligations and political commitments to disarm, none of the nuclear-armed states and their allies under the nuclear umbrella are taking any serious steps to reduce their reliance on nuclear weapons.”

- Nuclear accomplice states:
 - 30 + 2 NATO members, Australia, Japan, South Korea (US); Armenia and Belarus (Russia)

Australia: the most active weasel

For undermining the NPT; obstructing efforts to ban nuclear weapons; general duplicity and insincere conduct; sundry offences against reason and logic.





Australia's shameful position

ICANW.ORG.AU

- Actively opposed and sought to undermine treaty development
 - FOI documents: boast of an Australian diplomat that they had done some “heavy lifting” for the US in seeking to undermine development of treaty mandate
- Called for OEWG 2015 vote after negotiating consensus
- Boycotted negotiations, early refusal to join
- Stark contrast to bipartisan Australian support for other bans:
 - bio and toxin, chemical
 - landmine, cluster munitions
 - blinding lasers



The TPNW is compatible with a military alliance with a nuclear-armed state ...

- ... provided prohibited activities are excluded
- Nothing in ANZUS Treaty (nor NATO, or bilat Japan, ROK security treaties) stipulate extended nuclear deterrence
- 2 former secretary-generals of NATO, Ban Ki-moon, Hatoyama Yukio, Tanaka Makiko & Naoki, Oct 2020:
 - [our] “governments could of course remain in alliances with nuclear-armed states, as nothing in the treaty itself nor in our respective defence pacts precludes that”
- 11 of 17 then US “Major Non-NATO Allies” voted for treaty adoption:
 - 3 of these have ratified to date (Thailand, Philippines, NZ)
 - No issues for non-nuclear military cooperation evident
 - 2 more have signed

What would Australia need to do to join the treaty?

- Renounce policy of ‘extended nuclear deterrence’: any role in requesting/justifying use of nuclear weapons on Australia’s behalf
 - Could be done promptly
 - Requires no change to any treaty
- Cease any role for Australian personnel and facilities to assist in military preparations for use of nuclear weapons
 - Pine Gap, other military bases
 - Would require negotiation with US, may require closure of certain facilities and functions, re-assignment of some personnel
 - Secondments, training, exercises involving nuclear weapons
- End visits by aircraft or ships carrying nuclear weapons
 - Straightforward: NW removed from all US surface ships in 1991

See: <https://icanw.org.au/choosinghumanity/>



Pine Gap Relay Ground Station

Kristian Laemmle-Ruff



Expansion of RGS, Google Earth,
Maxar Technologies, July 2020

ALP National Conference Adelaide Dec 2018

Reaffirmed March 2021

ration of Nuclear Weapons (NPT): a
ar weapons; and
h partners and allies to build upon
mmission on Nuclear Non-
armament and develop an initiative
ay of working with states to
realise the aspiration of Australia
ncourage transparency and
eapons over their doctrine and
rsenals, and continuing to
ration goals in the Indo-Paci



A Fair Go For
Austra

Australian Labor Party

National Conference, Adelaide, 18 December 2018

Resolution 397R

Chapter 11

Nuclear disarmament

Mover: Anthony Albanese (NSW)

Seconder: Richard Marles (VIC)

Labor in government will sign and ratify the Ban Treaty, after taking account of the need to:

- Ensure an effective verification and enforcement architecture;
- Ensure the interaction of the Ban Treaty with the longstanding Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty;
- Work to achieve universal support for the Ban Treaty.

**100 current Federal
parliamentarians,
including 80% of Labor
members and 2/3 of
shadow cabinet**

Lock them in!

icanw.org.au/pledge

**Multi-party Parliamentary
Friends of the Treaty on
the Prohibition of Nuclear
Weapons**

ICAN PARLIAMENTARY PLEDGE

FOR THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

ABOUT THE PLEDGE

This Pledge is a commitment by parliamentarians around the world to work to promote the signature and ratification of the Treaty by their respective countries.

WHO CAN SIGN

Any current member of a national, state/provincial or regional parliament or congress may sign the Pledge. It is open to parliamentarians from all countries.

HOW TO SIGN

To add your name to the Pledge, please email info@icanw.org

NAME

SIGNATURE

COUNTRY

EMAIL

DATE

**We, the undersigned
parliamentarians,**

warmly welcome the adoption of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on 7 July 2017 as a significant step towards the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

We share the deep concern expressed in the preamble about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from any use of nuclear weapons and we recognize the consequent need to eliminate these inhumane and abhorrent weapons.

As parliamentarians, we pledge to work for the signature and ratification of this landmark treaty by our respective countries, as we consider the abolition of nuclear weapons to be a global public good of the highest order and an essential step to promote the security and well-being of all peoples.





Who else is behind the ban?

ICANW.ORG.AU



- 71 - 79% of the public
 - Very few opposed ~6%
- 39 local governments
- Australian Local Government Association
- Australian Red Cross
- Australian Medical Association, ANMF, Public Health Assoc
- 60+ faith-based organisations
- 25 unions and Australian Council of Trade Unions
- 80+ ICAN partner organisations



**NOBEL
PEACE
PRIZE
2017**

ICAN CITIES APPEAL

**A global call from cities and towns in support of the
UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**

39 councils

Australian Local Government Association 2021 unanimous
Platform for public events and education, divestment



CAZALY WARD

DAREBIN COMMUNITY NEWS



JUNE/JULY 2019

Maintaining and investing in our assets page 4

Reservoir East Primary School wins a new bike fleet page 5

ICAN Mural Launch page 8

ICAN founders Dave Sweeney and Dimity Hawkins with members of the Lester family at the launch of a new mural at Preston Library, which celebrates ICAN and pays tribute to Yankunytjatjara Elder and anti-nuclear activist, Yami Lester.

Photo published with kind permission from the family of Mr Yami Lester.

Money starting to move - Australia

Hall of Shame:

- US\$4.5 b (A\$6529.3 m) to nw makers Jan 2017 – Jan 2019:
 - ANZ \$1904 m
 - Macquarie \$2197 m
 - Westpac \$272.2 m
 - CBA \$517m
- Est total banks \$15b, insurance \$10b
- Superannuation funds (excl self-managed) – most: est >>\$10 billion
- AustralianSuper: \$1.5b in nw cos

Honour Roll:

- Australian Ethical, Bank Australia, CareSuper, Christian Super, Crescent Wealth, Future Super, Hostplus, U Ethical, Verve Super

Stop Press:
RIAA includes
nw in
“controversial
weapons” from
2022



quitnukes.org

Will Australia become the first nuclear dependent state to join the TPNW?

- Some modest but hopeful early signs:
 - Joined TPNW MSP1 as observer
 - Hostile misinformation re TPNW removed from DFAT website
 - More positive approach including to regional relationships, civil society
- Please help us!