



Australian Anti-AUKUS Coalition

AUKUS FACT SHEET

What is AUKUS? What are its implications for Australians?

Why must it be opposed?

AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia. It was announced by former PM Scott Morrison on 15th September, 2021 in a totally undemocratic manner without any parliamentary discussion or approval and no prior public knowledge or debate. It was subsequently adopted in the same manner by the Labor Party.

Its stated intent is to share US and UK defence technologies with Australia, the first and initially the most important one being nuclear-propulsion technology for submarines.

Its over-riding purpose is to operate in an integrated way to contain China and maintain US dominance in the Indo-Pacific including the South China Sea. This means upholding the so-called rules-based-order which has been defined and maintained by the United States for its own economic and military interests. These are not rules created by the United Nations or the international community.

For Australia, AUKUS means:

- Acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines at an estimated cost of \$368 billion, or \$34 million a day, over 3 decades (plus expected additional blow-outs in cost)
- Serious safety risks to civilians, military personnel, Aboriginal land and the general environment, through use of highly-enriched uranium, reactor leaks or incidents, and handling of deadly waste
- Integration of the Australian Defence Forces (ADF) with those of the United States and to a lesser extent the United Kingdom, with consequent loss of Australian Government control over decisions about the deployment of the ADF
- Becoming involved in an aggressive containment strategy against China, Australia's major trading partner, which could lead to a disastrous, potentially nuclear war with facilities in Australia as prime targets.

Why must AUKUS be opposed and why must Australia get out of AUKUS?

1. It is not in the interests of the Australian people to join in a war against China., our major trading partner.
2. AUKUS will see the deadly nuclear industry assume a much bigger role in Australia. Australian acquisition of nuclear submarines undermines the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and encourages other countries to follow suit.
3. The nuclear submarines are designed for hunter-killer operation in distant waters such as the South China Sea, not for coastal defence of Australia, and therefore are aggressive instruments of war as part of the AUKUS strategies against China.
4. The nuclear submarines at a cost of \$368 billion dollars or more will divert scarce public resources away from urgent social needs such as climate change mitigation, health and hospitals, education, welfare benefits and public housing.
5. AUKUS ties Australia into supporting the foreign policies of the United States and prevents the continuing development of peaceful and mutually beneficial relations with China and with our neighbours in the Pacific and South East Asia.

For more information: <https://antiaukuscoalition.org>