

Submission to the Defence Amendment (Parliamentary Approval of Overseas Service) Bill 2020

I can very clearly remember watching the second plane hit on 9/11.

I can very clearly remember the drum beats of war and revenge that followed.

I can very clearly remember the WMDs (weapons of mass destruction) that justified further war in Iraq.

But was 9/11 actually a terrorist attack by al-Qaeda, or was it just the outcome of Operation Cyclone which developed, trained, and funded extremist organisations in the middle-east? Was the reason al-Qaeda turned against their masters because of further intervention by US and allied forces during the first invasion of Iraq?

Were the drum beats of war really about 9/11, or just a continuance of foreign imperialism and interfrance by countries like Australia and the USA? Were we really liberating countries, or just securing the natural resources for our interests?

What about those WMDs? We heard so much about them, but they never were found. Anyone who paid close attention knew they didn't exist before we went to war. It was all a lie.

That didn't stop our Prime Minister, John Howard, taking us to war.

900,000 people have been killed, over a third of those civilians, and 38 million people have been displaced by the post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and the Philippines. Trillions of dollars have been spent to do this. Trillions.

And now, 20 years later, I'm seeing the war drums beat again. Despite what we have learned, despite the suffering caused, despite the trillions of wasted taxpayer dollars, the war hawks are drumming. And they only have to play for one person.

We should never allow Australians to be dragged into war again.

It should not be a discussion behind closed doors. It should not be a discussion built upon lies and misinformation. It needs to be a very public discussion. The vast majority of Australians agree that public debate is needed before we go to war. And we should not allow the war hawks to lie to us again so that they can make money killing people in other countries.