



## **NO TO NUCLEAR SUBMARINES – JOBS AND HEALTH, NOT NUKES**

21 September 2021

Today, on World Peace Day, the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) declares its total opposition to the reckless announcement by Scott Morrison that Australia would be developing nuclear-powered submarines as part of a military alliance with the US and UK.

At a time when Morrison should have been pursuing vaccination supplies and providing maximum support to our health system and millions of people in lockdown, he has been pursuing secret military deals. The deal will continue to escalate unnecessary conflict with China. Workers have already been impacted with seafarers stranded on coal ships and some trades shut down.

Extraordinary sums of money have been wasted with the previous submarine contract scrapped only five years after it was signed. That contract was worth \$90 billion – nuclear submarines will cost much more.

Only six countries in the world have nuclear submarines, and they all have nuclear power stations. Advocates for nuclear power and nuclear weapons have been emboldened. The submarines will use highly enriched uranium ideal for nuclear weapons.

The Australian government has repeatedly tried to set up nuclear waste dumps on First Nations land. This will intensify that pressure.

The billions wasted on submarines should be spent on:

- Building an Australian strategic shipping fleet in Adelaide that could operate in cabotage and international trades;
- Building renewable energy and offshore wind turbines to ensure we prevent global heating from exceeding 1.5°C;
- Raising Jobseeker payments to well above poverty levels;
- Pay increases for health workers and investments in our health systems;
- Pay increases for teachers and investments in public schools to make them covid-safe;
- Investing in firefighting capacity and ensuring we are ready for the next bushfire season.



Workers have no interest in war with China or any other country. Every effort should be made to pursue peaceful relations.

The MUA stands in solidarity with workers in all countries in opposing war and wasteful environmentally harmful military spending. We pledge our opposition to oppose the development of nuclear submarines in Australia, and the development of any other nuclear industry.

Media contact John Hill 0412 197 079