

Support Josh Wilson MP
Raising concern about aspects of the AUKUS security pact

On Monday 20 March 2023, Josh Wilson MP (Freemantle) raised concerns about aspects of the AUKUS security pact on the floor of the House of Representatives. At its core, he argues that that 'The AUKUS agreement was arrived at with some characteristically questionable secrecy by the former government and some strange ministerial arrangements'.

Key quotes of his speech include:

- it should be a statement of the obvious to say that with an undertaking of this scale, complexity, cost and duration there remain considerable risks and uncertainty—that is the plain, hard reality—and if we're not able to have a mature and sensible conversation about those risks there is very little chance, we will manage them effectively.
- building submarines inevitably takes longer and costs more than you anticipate.
- I'm not yet convinced that we can adequately deal with the non-proliferation risks involved in what is a novel arrangement by which a non-nuclear weapons state under the NPT comes to acquire weapons-grade material.
- We must always be able to have a rigorous and challenging conversation about defence and security matters.
- it will only be effective if we do our job as parliamentarians, which is to look closely and ask questions in order to guard against risk.

The Hansard record can be found at

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/26429/&sid=0229 (cut and paste into your browser).

QPLC encourages Friends to send Josh Wilson a note or email of support. It only requires a few minutes of your time.

For example:

Thank you for your courageous words on Monday 20 March in the House, raising concerns about the AUKUS security pact and submarine procurement in particular.

Among your many important points, I found the most inspirational to be this description of your job: '...our job as parliamentarians...is to look closely and ask questions in order to guard against risk'. This work, which is fairly exclusive to Parliamentarians, is critical as many of the risks to Australia that are embedded in AUKUS would likely have catastrophic consequences for our country.

I hope that you are able to have many constructive and persuasive conversations with your Parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the chambers.

QPLC has already sent a letter of support.