



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor supports Andren's amendment on Iraq Debate – No Australian military involvement without UN support

Independents Peter Andren and Tony Windsor have moved an amendment to the Motion currently before the Federal Parliament concerning a possible conflict with Iraq.

The amendment “insists that in the absence of specific, unambiguous and unanimous support of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Australian defence forces not be involved in any military action in Iraq.”

Mr Windsor referred to many of his constituents' concerns in his Electorate.

“The clear message from New England is that of opposition to war, but if war is to be declared it should only be with the endorsement of the global community via the United Nations,” Mr Windsor said.

“The original motion before the House as introduced by the Prime Minister does not allow for a clear expression by the Parliament in regard to what the Australian community thinks.”

Mr Windsor said the common bonded thread through this issue is that Australians want a clear-cut voice from the Parliament in relation to the circumstances in which they will engage in military conflict.

“As Mr Andren's amendment proposes, Australia's involvement in military action should only take place if there is the full endorsement of the United Nations,” he said.

“That would remove the “grey” from the “black and white” referred to by the Prime Minister when speaking in the Parliament about this issue.”

Mr Windsor urged all Members of Parliament, particularly the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister, to note that this is the first time Members have had an opportunity to debate this motion, that the motion should come to some finality, and that both sides of this House should vote on the amendment so that there is a clear expression from the Parliament as to where the people's representatives sit on this issue.

“We are not “grey” people; we are people who can make decisions and make our voices heard. We should, in this Parliament, do so,” Mr Windsor said.

The debate will continue into next week.

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