

Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia)



National Office: PO Box 1379, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia
Level 2, 161 Barry St, Carlton, Victoria 3053, Australia
p: +61 (0)3 8344 1637 f: +61 (0)3 8344 1638
e: mapw@mapw.org.au w: www.mapw.org.au
ABN: 15 779 883 661

7 July, 2009

Dear Member of Parliament,

Enclosed for your interest are two MAPW Fact Sheets, addressing the current **Talisman Sabre joint US-Australian military exercises**, and the risks associated with the visits of nuclear ships that will form part of the exercises. These are also available online at www.mapw.org.au

The Talisman Sabre exercises are running from 6 to 25 July, at a financial cost of \$48 million or more, and an unknown environmental cost. This is at a time when Australia faces no major military threat, as confirmed by the recent Defence White Paper. By contrast we face overwhelming threats from climate change, resource depletion and environmental degradation.

One of the many hidden costs of war is its contribution to climate change through an enormous consumption of fossil fuels. The Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia), with Doctors for the Environment Australia, has called for a carbon audit of the Talisman Sabre exercises. We ask you to support this call.

21st century security lies not in military supremacy and a repeat of the last century's carnage, but in global cooperation to create a sustainable and equitable world. We urge all Australian parliamentarians to help ensure that our nation's energies and resources are expended towards these goals. Talisman Sabre will simply undermine them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further, or if we can assist with further information.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Sue Wareham OAM
President
Medical Association for Prevention of War (Australia)

