



Friends of the Earth Adelaide

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Senator Karen Grogan

May 28, 2026

Dear Senator Grogan,

Much has changed since Anthony Albanese told delegates to the 2018 ALP National Conference that “The struggle for nuclear disarmament is the most important struggle for the human race” and that “Labor in government will sign and ratify the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

Since then, the world has been plunged into chaos by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Israel’s disproportionate response to Hamas’ terror attack and the expansion of war in the Middle East to involve the whole region. The international ‘rules-based order’ is unravelling and genocide is being ‘normalised’, as Israel continues its obliteration of Gaza and the President of the United States threatens to bomb Iran ‘back to the stone ages’.

What has not changed since 2018 is that the struggle for nuclear disarmament (along with the struggle to respond to climate change) is still the most important struggle for the human race. With the expiration of the New START treaty, the last nuclear arms treaty between the US and Russia, the remaining restrictions on nuclear arms racing have been removed. In view of this and other dangerous developments, analysts at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists’ Doomsday Clock, which measures the likelihood of catastrophic nuclear war and other planetary-destroying scenarios, shifted the clock’s hands from 89 to 85 seconds to midnight, indicating that they believe we are the closest we have ever been to a nuclear disaster.

The path we are on is a path leading to nuclear war, with humanitarian and environmental consequences beyond human comprehension. In a world where veiled and explicit threats of nuclear attack have become commonplace, faith in ‘nuclear deterrence’ is becoming increasingly foolhardy, not to mention immoral.

Australia should declare that it will not consent to the use of inhumane nuclear weapons in its defence. It should sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) at the earliest opportunity. By fulfilling its long-held commitment to sign and ratify the TPNW, the Labor Government would not only add Australia to the growing list of states party to the Treaty, it would also show the way for other countries that have hitherto relied on the ‘nuclear umbrella’ for their security. It would be an act of national sovereignty.

We urge you to support our call for the government to announce, no later than the forthcoming ALP National Conference in Adelaide this July, that it will sign and ratify the TPNW in this term.

Yours sincerely,

Philip White

Convenor

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