



MEDIA RELEASE

January 2020

AUSTRALIAN PROGRESSIVES CALL FOR RESTRAINT AS TENSIONS ESCALATE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN

Australian Progressives Policy Director, Nicolle Burt has called on Prime Minister Scott Morrison to exercise calm and restraint as tensions escalate between the Trump Administration and Iran.

“The Trump administration has acted recklessly in authorising the assassination of Iranian Revolutionary Guard General Qassem Soleimani. Such operations have further destabilised the situation in the Middle East, increasing the risk of a major armed conflict. Iran has commenced retaliation against the US today and the commitment of troops or support would not be in Australia’s best interests,” said Ms. Burt. “We urge the Australian Government not to get involved with any further conflicts in the Middle East unless we or our sovereignty are at risk.”

The Australian Progressives understand the importance of our trade and other relationships with the United States, however, the rash behaviour of an increasingly feckless President is not something Australia needs to support. “While we are a key US ally and we respect our relationship, we should not be required to support President Trump’s impulsive military actions. It is clear President Trump has chosen to go to war against Iran to gain deflect attention from pending impeachment trial in the US Senate and to secure the Republican Party nomination and eventual reelection as President,” Ms. Burt continued. “Putting Australian military and public service personnel at risk to help re-elect President Trump would be completely irresponsible.”

The Australian Progressives insist there is no benefit to Australia in joining in any conflict between the US and Iran, regardless of alliance. “Australia should only be committing its forces to operations within our clearly defined national interests. Our national focus and consequent efforts must be upon the current emergency situation here,” said Nicolle.

The Australian Progressives are strongly urging the Morrison Government to avoid being drawn into the conflict. “It does not require much analysis to see that Western military interventions in the Middle East over the last couple of decades have caused much more harm than good.” Burt concluded.

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About Australian Progressives:

We believe in the advancement of an empathetic society - one in which all citizens of Australia can reach their full potential and find fulfilment in their lives within a thriving democracy. We will be a government with the guts to advance society through laws, services and infrastructure, for the benefit of all people. We believe government and communities should work together to develop creative and passionate individuals who can improve the world around them, embracing education, technology, science, culture and global leadership.

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