



Senator for Tasmania

Putting Tasmanian First

Jacqui Lambie

Media Statement

5.1.15

Abbott's Iraq trip designed to boost his political ratings rather than Diggers' morale – bring the troops home: Senator Lambie

Independent Senator for Tasmania Jacqui Lambie has called on Australia's Prime Minister Abbott to support her call to withdraw all Australian troops, pilots and aircraft from Iraq / Middle East - and to direct the money saved on the overseas deployment to delivering a fair pay increase for all members of the ADF.

"While Mr Abbott is happy to spend more than \$360M a year on another overseas military deployment to the Middle East most Australians, including many Tasmanians, are not happy with this situation. Especially when most of our defence experts now tell us - because of the United States' current minimal contribution in military hardware and ground forces - we have no chance of winning a war against the Islamic extremists / savages in Iraq and Syria." said Senator Lambie.

"At best Mr Abbott's \$360m p/a fight against the Islamic savages in Iraq may result in a stalemate – while our Diggers are placed in danger and denied a fair pay increase, which would only cost \$121M p/a. So the solution is simple. Pull out of a fight in the Middle East no one, (including the US) is fair dinkum about. Bring our troops back home. Then grant all members of the ADF a fair pay rise (*which at least keeps track with inflation*) by using the money saved on a now futile military contribution in Iraq." said Senator Lambie.

"Mr Abbott has all these facts before him. He didn't need to make the secret trip to Iraq. It's clearly a trip designed to boost his political ratings, rather than our troops' morale. I can't imagine any Australian Diggers' spirits being boosted after having their photo taken with, or listening to a politician who has denied them a fair pay rise and delivered them an effective pay cut." said Senator Lambie.

"I hope that Mr Abbott, when he met the new Iraqi PM Haider al-Abadi at least took the time to ask him about his countries' finances and whether the Iraqi government could afford to compensate Australia for the cost of our latest military deployment." said Senator Lambie.

According to the internationally respected team at the Economist Magazine, Iraq is one of five rich Middle Eastern oil countries, which have made some of the worlds' largest profits or surpluses. Iraq's official balance sheets, despite the nightly images on our TV screens prove it's a very wealthy country with plenty of spare cash – now boosted by Mr Abbott's extra \$5m of Australian Foreign Aid.

Indeed the Economist's Pocket World in Figures 2015 Edition* shows Iraq enjoyed a surplus in 2012 of US \$29.5B while in the same year Australia made a loss or deficit of US \$64.5B. Iraq's government may be dysfunctional, but its leaders have access to plenty of cash. Why then couldn't Mr Abbott ask Iraq's government to contribute to Australia's \$360M military deployment instead of giving an extra \$5m?

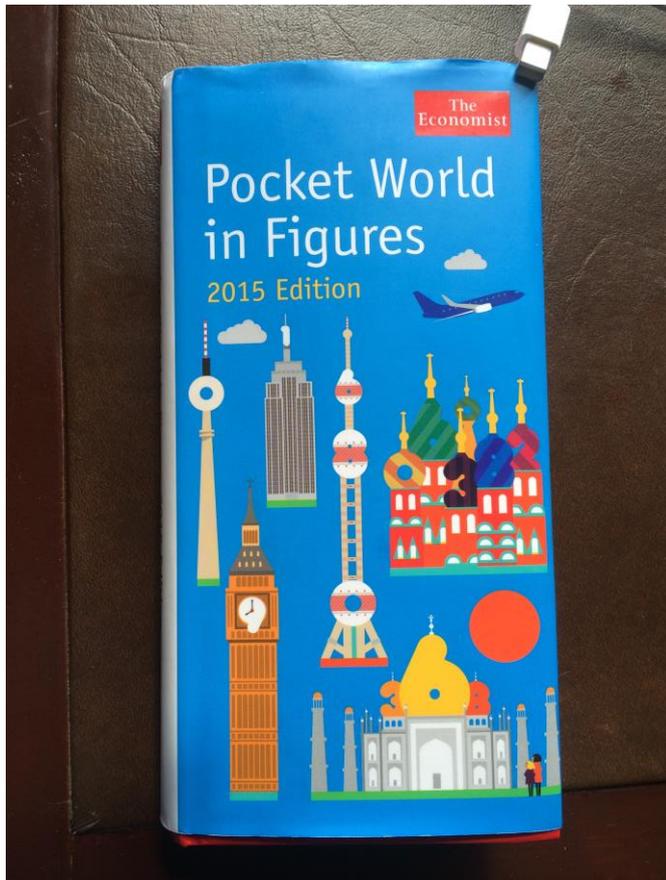


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Why should the Australian public have to pay for a futile fight in the Middle East, when our official terror alert and recent terrorist attack proves we haven't dealt properly with the Islamic extremists / savages living amongst us?" said Senator Lambie.

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- **Attachments 1 & 2**
- **The Economist Pocket World in Figures 2015 Edition**
- **World Rankings Balance of Payments: Current Account pg. 34**





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Balance of payments: current account

Largest surpluses

\$m, 2012

1 Germany	255,383
2 China	193,139
3 Euro area (17)	171,381
4 Saudi Arabia	164,764
5 Kuwait	76,275
6 Netherlands	73,596
7 Norway	72,609
8 Russia	71,282
9 United Arab Emirates	66,553
10 Qatar	62,031
11 Japan	60,859
12 Switzerland	53,914
13 Taiwan	50,672
14 Singapore	49,385
15 South Korea	43,335
16 Sweden	31,358
17 Iraq	29,541
18 Iran	26,272
19 Libya	23,836
20 Réunion ^a	23,797
21 Nigeria	20,353
22 Denmark	18,750
23 Macau	18,710
24 Malaysia	18,638
25 Azerbaijan	14,976

Largest deficits

\$m, 2012

1 United States	-440,423
2 United Kingdom	-94,270
3 India	-91,471
4 Australia	-64,341
5 Canada	-62,256
6 France	-57,246
7 Brazil	-54,246
8 Turkey	-48,497
9 Indonesia	-48,497
10 South Africa	-24,074
11 Poland	-20,016
12 Spain	-18,263
13 Mexico	-16,295
14 Ukraine	-14,767
15 Cambodia	-14,335
16 Congo	-11,834
17 Mexico	-9,843
18 Mexico	-9,353
19 Mexico	-9,083
20 Mexico	-7,570
21 Mexico	-7,487
22 Mexico	-6,972

26 Angola	13,200
27 Algeria	12,500
28 Venezuela	12,500
29 Austria	11,000
30 Ireland	9,500
31 Vietnam	9,000
32 Oman	8,500
33 Philippines	6,900
34 Brunei	5,800
35 Hong Kong	4,100
36 South Sudan	3,800
37 Luxembourg	3,100
38 Bahrain	2,900
39 Trinidad & Tobago ^b	2,800
40 Timor-Leste	2,700
41 Bangladesh	2,500
42 Gabon ^c	2,500
43 Côte d'Ivoire ^b	2,200
44 Bolivia	2,100
45 Slovakia	2,000
46 Cuba ^a	1,400
47 Slovenia	1,400
48 Hungary	900
49 Israel	850
50 Bermuda	770

Largest surpluses as % of GDP

2012

1 Timor-Leste	211.9
2 Macau	42.9
3 Kuwait	41.6
4 Libya	38.2
5 Brunei	33.5
6 South Sudan	32.2
7 Qatar	23.2
8 Saudi Arabia	22.5
9 Azerbaijan	18.0
10 Singapore	17.3
11 United Arab Emirates	14.5
12 Norway	14.1
13 Bermuda	13.7
14 Iraq	13.6
15 Gabon ^a	12.4
16 Trinidad & Tobago ^b	12.1
17 Angola	10.7
18 Taiwan	10.6
19 Oman	9.7
20 Bahrain	9.6
21 Netherlands	9.2
22 Côte d'Ivoire ^b	8.5
23 Switzerland	7.9
24 Bolivia	7.8
25 Nigeria	7.8

26 Germany	7.4
27 Malaysia	6.1
28 Algeria	6.0
Sweden	6.0
30 Denmark	5.9
31 Vietnam	5.8
32 Luxembourg	5.7
33 Iran	4.8
34 Ireland	4.4
35 South Korea	3.8
36 Russia	3.5
37 Slovenia	3.3
Suriname	3.3
39 Venezuela	2.9
40 Philippines	2.8
41 Swaziland	2.6
42 Austria	2.4
43 China	2.3
Eritrea ^a	2.3
45 Bangladesh	2.2
Cuba ^c	2.2
Slovakia	2.2
48 Malta	1.9
49 Hong Kong	1.6
50 Nepal	1.5

Largest deficits as % of GDP

2012

1 Mozambique	-44.2
2 Afghanistan	-36.9
3 Mongolia	-32.7
4 Liberia	-32.0
5 Sierra Leone	-31.0
6 Mauritania ^a	-30.6
7 West Bank & Gaza	-28.6
8 Zimbabwe	-25.6
9 Lesotho	-24.0
10 Burundi	-23.4
11 Kyrgyzstan	-23.1
12 Guinea	-19.6
13 Malawi	-18.8
14 Bahamas	-18.4
Jordan	-18.4
16 Papua New Guinea	-18.1
17 Montenegro	-17.6
18 Haiti	-17.3
19 New Caledonia ^b	-16.8
Niger	-16.8
21 Tanzania	-14.9

22 Kosovo ^b	-14.2
23 Jamaica	-12.9
24 Nicaragua	-12.7
25 Georgia	-12.1
26 Armenia	-11.7
27 Ghana	-11.6
28 Rwanda	-11.3
29 Serbia	-10.6
30 Sudan	-10.5
31 Panama	-10.4
32 Kenya	-10.4
Senegal	-10.3
34 Morocco	-10.1
35 Barbados	-9.9
36 Albania	-9.9
Congo-Kinshasa	-9.0
38 Bosnia & Herz.	-9.0
Chad ^c	-8.7
40 Uganda	-8.7
41 Cambodia	-8.7
Honduras	-8.7

a Estimate. b 2011 c 2010

include intra-euro area trade. a 2010 b 2011 c Estimate.