



# National Security Election Snapshot

## International Security and Key Partnerships

National security has been prominent in Australia's 2022 Federal Election campaign. This document is part of a series that intends to provide a snapshot of some priorities and targets from the different political parties in the lead-up to the election.

International partnerships and alliances are central to Australia's security. In the lead-up to the election, candidates and parties are championing a range of international partnerships – encompassing diplomacy, economics, defence and people-people ties – to protect Australia's interests and values in a contested world. The two major parties prioritise an intensification of the alliance with the United States, supplemented by the Quad and AUKUS, but there are other points of distinction in their international partnerships.

### The Australian Liberal Party and Australian National Party Coalition (The Coalition)

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 76 and Senate – 36

- **Advocates** close alignment with the United States and other democracies in the Indo-Pacific and globally, in particular to balance China's power and reduce its coercive influence. Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Defence Minister Peter Dutton have highlighted the risks of war in the region, notably over Taiwan.
- **Prime Minister Morrison** has referred to a 'balance of power that favours freedom' in opposition to an 'arc of autocracy' centred on China and Russia. The government has prioritised Australia's strategic relations with the United States, Japan, India and the United Kingdom, both bilaterally (such as through an Australia-Japan defence reciprocal access agreement) and in minilateral groupings such as the Quad and AUKUS.
- The Coalition Government has **cooperated** with the US, Japan, and India since 2017 to reinvigorate the Quad, and elevate it to leaders' level.
- The 2022 Federal Budget **revealed** that foreign aid spending will remain the same as in recent years at 0.2% of Australia's Gross National Income (GNI).
- Under the Pacific Step-Up, Australia's flagship aid and development program for the Pacific region, the Government **pledged** a further \$324.4 million to support recovery from COVID-19.
- A strong focus on values and human rights in defining Australia's foreign policy agenda, notably in relation to China and its treatment of Uyghurs, Tibetans, dissidents and Hong Kong. **Passed** Magnitsky-style sanctions, with bipartisan support, to allow the targeting of sanctions based on thematic categories, including human rights violations, malicious cyber activity and corruption.
- The Coalition Government has placed importance on economic diversification and free trade agreements with key international partners. In June 2020, Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi **agreed** to re-engage on a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, and consider earlier bilateral discussions, under the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Australia**. Australia also **formally signed** a free trade deal with the UK in December 2021.
- Prime Minister Morrison has **advocated** the reform of global institutions to improve their effectiveness and resilience in a more contested international environment. For instance, ahead of the 2021 G7 Summit, Mr Morrison issued a **proposal** outlining the need to repair and revive the multilateralism of the World Trade Organisation.

# The Australian Labor Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 68 and Senate – 26

- Declared similarity of approach to China, including in terms of its strategic challenge and human rights, as the Coalition Government. Mr Albanese has [indicated](#) Labor’s approach to China will be determined by Australian interests and values including a commitment to international law, rules-based order and respect for human rights. Labor shares the Coalition Government’s position on the South China Sea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and human rights abuses.
- [Supported](#) additional funding for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in the 2021 Federal Budget reply but has not committed to specific numbers.
- Labor leader Mr Albanese has expressed [concerns](#) that Australia has lost influence in the Pacific region by failing to act on climate change and cutting foreign aid. Shadow Foreign Minister Penny Wong has called the China-Solomon Islands security agreement Australia’s worst foreign policy failure in the Pacific since 1945. Labor announced a range of promises to strengthen Australia’s influence in the region. This includes \$65m over four years for a new Australia-Pacific defence school, \$12 million a year from 2024-25 for a Pacific Maritime security program, \$32 million over four years for the ABC to broadcast Australian content the Pacific region, and \$525 million over four years to increase aid for Pacific countries and Timor Leste.
- [Supported](#) Magnitsky-style sanctions in a bipartisan effort to allow the government to target sanctions to thematic categories, including human rights violations, malicious cyber activity and corruption.
- [Supportive](#) of the Quad and AUKUS.
- [Supports](#) strengthening political, economic and military ties with India, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore.
- Shadow Foreign Minister Wong indicated Labor would seek to expand its influence through a foreign policy commitment to “[multilateralism, the region and our alliance with the US.](#)” Senator Wong highlighted Labor’s commitment to ASEAN.
- [Pledged](#) to deliver a \$200 million climate and infrastructure partnership with Indonesia and deliver greater economic expansion under the [Indonesia Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement](#).

# The Australian Greens Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 9

- [Supports](#) renegotiating Australia’s alliance with the United States to ensure Australia is a “better global citizen”.
- [Wants](#) to close US joint intelligence/military facilities in Australia and [sign](#) and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- [Supports](#) the passage of Magnitsky-style legislation to target individuals and entities who commit serious human right abuses. More generally, supports greater advocacy of human rights as foreign policy.
- Would [increase](#) Australia’s aid budget by 2030 to 0.7% of GNI in line with Australia’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Would establish an independent development oversight agency. Specifically, [bolster](#) foreign aid to the Pacific in the form of humanitarian assistance and debt forgiveness.

# Centre Alliance

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 1

- [Supports](#) restoring the \$7.6 billion of aid funding cut by Australian government in the 2014 budget.
- [Supports](#) working towards a foreign aid budget that represents 0.7% of GNI.

# Katter’s Australia Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 0

- This party is yet to share policies for international security and key partnerships.

## The United Australia Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 1 and Senate – 0

- This party is yet to share policies for international security and key partnerships.

## Pauline Hanson's One Nation Party

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 0 and Senate – 2

- [Supports](#) withdrawing from the United Nations 1951 Refugee Convention, stating that the international treaty is out of date and the cost of holding refugees or asylum seekers in Nauru is \$4.3 million per year.

## Jacque Lambie Network

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 0 and Senate – 1

- [Advocates](#) for diplomats to be expelled should their country be found to have engaged in cyber-attacks to curb the growing presence of cyber-crime and foreign interference in Australia.

## Rex Patrick Team

Seats in Parliament (as of April 2022): House of Representatives – 0 and Senate – 1

- [Advocates](#) banning the importation of products from Xinjiang and condemns oppression of the Uyghur people.
- [Advocates](#) for diplomats to be expelled should their country be found to have engaged in cyber-attacks to curb the growing presence of cyber-crime and foreign interference in Australia.

**Disclaimer:** The information presented in this document is sourced from public and readily-available sources. The parties mentioned in this document are formally recognised Australian political parties, with an established voting history. Any contextual and explanatory information on policy stances has been researched by ANU National Security College staff.

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