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Statement on Australia's Involvement in the Middle East

Australians deserve clarity about our country's involvement in any military conflict. If we are being drawn into a war in the Middle East, the government must clearly explain their understanding of the objectives of that war, the scope of our involvement, and how this serves Australia's national interest. We cannot drift into another open-ended conflict without a clear, honest conversation with the public.

We can be unequivocal about the brutality and repression of the Iranian regime - and clear-eyed about who suffers most under it. For decades, ordinary Iranians have borne the cost, often showing remarkable courage in demanding freedom and basic rights. And there are still those ordinary Iranians paying that cost – being subject as they now are to Operation Epic Fury by the United States and Operation Roaring Lion by Israel.

Condemning the regime is not a free pass for countries to operate with impunity or to disregard international law. When powerful nations act outside agreed rules without accountability, it risks eroding the very system meant to constrain conflict, protect civilians, and ensure stability and peace.

We have seen what happens when wars begin without clear goals or exit strategies. The past two decades — from Afghanistan to Iraq — have made many wary of “forever wars” where missions expand, become difficult to end, and leave the people of those countries worse off. If the Australian Government wants us to become a part of this war, the public deserves to know the objectives, what success looks like, and under what conditions Australia would step forward, and step back.