

IN THE INTEREST OF ALL VETERANS
AND EXSERVICE PERSONEL

**SEND THIS TO THE POLLIES REMIND
THEM THIS IS AN ELECTION YEAR
AND WE VOTE**

Brigadier Neil Weekes (Rtd) AM MC (Queensland)

Brigadier Weekes served with the 1st Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, in South Vietnam in 1968 as a Platoon Commander, where he was awarded the Military Cross (MC) for gallantry. He remained with the Battalion for its tour in Malaysia and Singapore during 1969-1971. He subsequently served in postings in Papua New Guinea and Malaysia.

He is currently the Patron of the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia (Townsville Branch), Patron of the National Servicemen's Association of Australia (Townsville Branch), and Patron of the Townsville Branch of the RSL. He is also the Chair of the North Australian Military Heritage Association.

He is also a member of the Prime Ministers Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters.

From: [Neil Weekes](#)

Sent: Saturday, 27 February 2010 12:30 PM

Subject: MARKUS/BALDWIN - JOINT PRESS RELEASE - SENATE
INQUIRY INTO SUPERANNUATION REFORM

G'day All,

Well this is a follow up to my earlier "**DANGER! DANGER!**
URGENT! URGENT!" message. Please read this press release very carefully, as well as my extract from the relevant proposed Bill - below.

I have enclosed a copy of the proposed bill so that you can see what the danger is. We all know that, despite assurances given by Government, that each superannuation scheme will retain its own special features, it is so easy to change that down the track. Just remember that between 1986 - 1989 the then Prime Minister Keating, reduced the level of CPI on military superannuation by almost 2%, from 9.2% to 7.2% and that this money has never been paid to those who were affected.

I have also been reliably informed that unless we, the ex-Service community, inundate the Senate Committee with our concerns - yes another "campaign, similar to our email campaign to the ABC Q&A Show) there is little chance of convincing the Opposition to vote against this Bill.

So please distribute this to all your contacts.

NOTE that we have only 7 (yep, only SEVEN) days to get our submissions in.

SUBMISSIONS HAVE TO BE IN BY 5 MARCH - THIS YEAR.
WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

It is up to each individual. I have taken the liberty of attaching a letter prepared by someone else. If I have time I will draft another letter and distribute that ASAP but please act now. Please use your own words. You should be aware that the DFWA and the RSL are also looking into this and, from what I can ascertain, they generally oppose the Bill, especially the composition of the Board.

Cheers,

Neil Weekes

The DFWA has already distributed its concern regarding the proposed *Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010* - copy attached.

Please note Clause 10(2):

Under **subclause 10(2)**, the employee directors are nominated, in writing, by:

- the **President of the ACTU** who represents the interests of members of the civilian schemes and nominates **3 directors**; and
- the **Chief of the Defence Force** who represents the interest of members of the military schemes and nominates **2 directors**.

All veterans, retired ADF members and currently serving ADF members should be most concerned about this proposed Bill, especially this Clause. If the Bill is approved and enacted as proposed, we may have very little chance of getting any changes made to our existing superannuation schemes. This smacks of yet another serious threat to civilianise the ADF so that we lose any special consideration for the uniqueness of military service. Note that under this Clause ACTU directors outnumber ADF directors.

All ex-ADF members and currently serving members are encouraged to make submissions on this proposed Bill. It is hoped that our ADF Senior Officers will oppose this Bill so that military superannuation schemes remain under separate arrangements and under separate governing bodies.

From: [Lindsay, Peter \(MP\)](#)
To: sealure2@bigpond.net.au

Sent: Saturday, February 27, 2010 1:16 PM

Subject: Fw: MARKUS/BALDWIN - JOINT PRESS RELEASE - SENATE INQUIRY INTO SUPERANNUATION REFORM

Neil

For your information

Peter

Sent from my Blackberry

From: CoalitionFYI (REPS)

Sent: Sat Feb 27 13:42:59 2010

Subject: MARKUS/BALDWIN - JOINT PRESS RELEASE - SENATE INQUIRY INTO SUPERANNUATION REFORM

Dear Coalition Members, Senators and staff

Please find attached a Joint Media Release from the Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mrs Louise Markus MP, and the Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Personnel and Assisting Shadow Minister for Defence, the Hon Bob Baldwin MP, regarding a Senate Inquiry into proposed changes to military superannuation.

Key points

- **Written submissions to the Senate Inquiry are due by Friday, 5 March 2010 (this Friday)**
- **A public hearing will be held on Thursday, 11 March 2010**
- **The Committee will report its findings on Monday, 15 March 2010.**

Please contact Robert Hardie (0418 432 909) or Richard Briedis (0401 056 054) for more information.

Mrs Louise Markus MP

Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs

The Hon Bob Baldwin MP

Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Personnel and
Assisting Shadow Minister for Defence

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 27 February 2010

SENATE INQUIRY INTO SUPERANNUATION REFORM

The Senate will hold an Inquiry into military and civilian superannuation reforms proposed by the Rudd Labor Government.

The Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Louise Markus MP, and the Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Personnel and Assisting Shadow Minister for Defence, Bob Baldwin MP, said the Coalition urged interested individuals to make a submission to the Senate on these Bills.

"The veteran community have made numerous representations to me with concerns about the *Governance of Australian Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010* and related Bills", Mrs Markus said.

"The Bills propose the management of civilian and military superannuation schemes be merged into one new authority, with a 10-person board comprising three trade union representatives and two Defence representatives", Mr Baldwin said. "The remaining five representatives will be chosen by the Finance Minister."

"The Coalition does not support the inclusion of three trade unionists onto a board managing military superannuation. Furthermore, we do not believe the merger is in the best interests of veterans, ex-service members or the broader Australian community.

Mr Baldwin and Mrs Markus said military superannuation remained an issue which evoked deep passion in the ex-service community.

"The Senate Inquiry will provide an opportunity for those people with concerns about military superannuation arrangements to have their voices heard."

Written submissions to the Senate Inquiry need to be lodged by Friday 5 March 2010, with a public hearing set down for Thursday 11 March 2010. The Senate Inquiry will report to the Senate with its findings on Monday 15 March 2010.

Written submissions can be made by **Friday 5 March 2010** to:

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Mrs Markus and Mr Baldwin encourage anyone with a view on military superannuation management arrangements, especially the proposed merger, to contact the committee with their views.

MEDIA CONTACT Robert Hardie (0418 432 909) (Mrs Markus)
Richard Briedis (0401-056-054) (Mr Baldwin)