

# Forged in blood: Ukraine's admiration for Australia



**Vasyl  
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The recent commitment of support by Australia to Ukraine in the form of \$31m to help meet its energy and humanitarian needs is deeply appreciated.

As with previous commitments of support to Ukraine's military defence and social security, my government is grateful for Australia's aid, solidarity and principled stand since the beginning of Russia's invasion in February 2022.

Australian support now totals more than \$1bn. As I often say to gatherings of Australians, Australia's aid for Ukraine has a multiplier effect. It not only directly meets needs in Ukraine but also affirms and strengthens Ukrainians in their pursuit of our common values and withstanding Russia's illegal invasion.

Ukrainians are often awe-struck that Australians – on the other side of the planet – are concerned for both their fate and for securing a democratic and just future. They are encouraged that the Australian government – through commitments of support – represents their concerns and demonstrably acts in the name of the international rules-based order.

Following an intense campaign of Russian bombardment of Ukraine's energy infrastructure since January, the current Australian package is notable as it is directed at Ukraine's highest-priority energy needs. It helps keep the heat and the lights on, which is part of the psychological battle with the Kremlin.

The package is also aimed at providing lifesaving support to the vulnerable populations who are most affected by war, such as women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Ukrainian families have, in 2024 alone, endured more than 10,000 missile and guided bomb strikes on their communities.

I note that this most recent package

follows direct dialogue between Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. On their recent telephone call, I know that President Zelenskyy expressed his gratitude for Australia's unwavering support for Ukraine and also appreciated Australia's willingness to participate at the Global Peace Summit in Switzerland.

More than 90 nations have now said they will be present in Switzerland as part of a united front in the name of a peaceful resolution to the war on Ukraine, including the de-occupation of Ukrainian territory. As with the "multiplier effect" from its aid, Australia's participation in this event will also strongly resonate.

Since the shooting down by Russian forces of MH17, which included the deaths of 38 Australians, Ukrainians and Australians have been bound by blood – and by the common desire to restore the world to peace.

The prospect of that peace grows stronger as Ukraine, Australia and other nations resolutely stand and act together for democratic principles and values. We cannot give in; we cannot become lackadaisical; we cannot sacrifice lives to tyranny. Hence, Australia's latest package is worth so much more than \$31m. It is, rather, a great investment in a better future.

**Vasyl Myroshnychenko is Ukraine's ambassador to Australia and New Zealand**