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Ukraine MPs urge Australian help for rebuilding efforts

By Tess Ikonou

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Ukraine can help Australia build up its own sovereign capabilities, its top diplomat in Canberra says, as the nation looks to attract businesses to take part in its reconstruction efforts.

Russia's full-scale invasion has entered its fifth year, as analysis estimates up to 325,000 of its troops have been killed between February 2022 and December 2025.

It's estimated between 100,000 and 140,000 people from the Ukrainian military have been killed defending their nation.

A Ukrainian delegation of MPs visited Parliament House in Canberra on Wednesday where they met with Australian ministers, politicians and business leaders to discuss defence and trade cooperation, and investment opportunities.



📷 Ukrainian ambassador to Australia Vasyl Myroshnychenko is calling for a special envoy. (Dominic Giannini/AAP PHOTOS)

Ukrainian ambassador Vasyl Myroshnychenko said his nation was trying to convince the Albanese government to consider appointing a special envoy on his nation's reconstruction.

"There will be a lot that will need to be rebuilt ... there are many different sectors where Australians can contribute to and make money out of it," he said on Wednesday.

He described the area of defence technology as "low-hanging fruit" as the government could invest this way.

"We can definitely set up production here in Australia, and this is how we can help Australia to build its own sovereign capabilities in new modern day technology, which has been developed in Ukraine as a result of Russia's war," Mr Myroshnychenko said.

Ukrainian MP Galyna Mykhailiuk, who is leading the delegation, said the war's impact on her nation was difficult to describe.

"Almost every single family in Ukraine has someone on the front line or someone who died because of the war," she said.

Dr Mykhailiuk noted the sharp decline in military and financial aid from Australia, which has provided a total of \$1.7 billion in support since 2022.

She said the donation of Bushmasters had stopped in 2023, and that they had been life-saving.

Ukrainian MP Anastasiia Radina said her six-year-old son had no memory of what life was like before the war, which started when he was two.

"We have a whole generation growing up who are completely unfamiliar with the concept of peace," she said.

"This will have its implications for years to come."

Labor senator Deborah O'Neill, co-chair of the Australian Parliamentary Friends of Ukraine group which launches on Wednesday, said Kyiv stood on the frontline of democracy.

"The Australian parliament stands in lockstep with the brave sacrifices of the men, women and children enduring barbaric Russian bombardment," she said.

"As parliamentarians, we will continue to advocate for a peace that upholds Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

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