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From: [REDACTED]
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I am a dual Australian and US citizen.

For Australia's national security, I believe it is vital to take a more discerning look at which US foreign policy moves Australia supports.

Donald Trump has taken a provocative approach to foreign affairs, which is likely to raise tensions between the US and China. Australia is very dependent on China economically, and vulnerable to China militarily.

Under a Trump presidency, the US is very unlikely to honour any treaty which would compel it to protect Australia from Chinese retaliation (though it is likely to move to protect any US assets in Australia, such as Pine Gap).

While it would be unwise to let Trump know that Australia was shifting its policy of utter compliance with all US foreign policy movements, it would also be unwise to retain the policy. The best approach to avoid retaliation from either China or the US would be to make almost-neutral public expressions of mild support for the US, and to take no actual actions in support.

The US is moving toward a less-democratic, more autocratic form of government, and this cannot possibly be good for Australia.

There is likely to be another financial crisis, and China, as a holder of vast reserves of precious metals, will emerge from that crisis as one of the strongest economies in the world. Australia, with its strong banking regulations, will also be in a good position (relative to Europe or the US) to weather the next financial crisis.

Long term, Australia's interests are more aligned with those of ASEAN and India than they are with the US.

I say this as a concerned citizen of both Australia and the US.

Yours truly,

Jenny-Lynne Hale