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To: letters@smh.com.au

Subject: Decision to go to war

Nothing like a war to avert one's gaze from draconian social service cuts, Orwellian surveillance laws curtailing press freedom, and the looming effects of climate change as we head for another long hot summer.

What is wrong with this country that we still haven't had an inquiry into the last Iraq War and neither have we had a parliamentary debate then and now. Haven't we learnt from past wars that it takes some reflection and thus decisions made on sound evidence and understanding before we rush headlong into another?

What are the thoughts of our leaders of both major parties as they commemorate the centenary of WWI, the supposed "war to end all wars"? Are they so bereft of ideas and imagination that bombing is the default position to resolve conflict ahead of UN debate and taking some ownership in resolving the mess left behind from previous wars?