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## Taylor Slams Albanese's "Weak" Defence Stance Amid Rising Global Threats

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Shadow Defence Minister Andrew Hastie has sharply criticised the Albanese government for what he describes as a dangerously weak defence strategy, warning that Australia is unprepared for escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly those centred on Taiwan and the Indo-Pacific region. While denying any change to the Coalition's longstanding policy on Taiwan, Hastie stressed that peace can only be preserved through strength, not speculation or passivity.

In an interview with Sky News, Hastie highlighted growing concerns about the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) rapid military expansion, along with rising aggression from other authoritarian regimes. "We are facing a global environment that's deteriorating fast. Our commitment, as with the United States, is to the status quo in and around Taiwan," he said. "But peace is not maintained by wishful thinking. It's ensured by deterrence and strength." The Member for Canning emphasised that the Coalition's position remains unchanged: a secure and peaceful Taiwan is in Australia's national interest, and any response must be based on capability, not political theatre.

Hastie argued that under the current Australian Labor Party (ALP) leadership, the country is falling behind on key defence deliverables, with critical capability gaps widening. Despite the government's rhetoric on bolstering the Australian Defence Force (ADF), recent delays and underinvestment have left Australia exposed. "The most provocative thing of all is weakness," he warned, highlighting that strategic uncertainty invites adventurism from hostile states. In contrast, a robust and credible deterrent posture sends a clear message of resolve, reducing the likelihood of conflict.



This latest critique from the Opposition reflects a broader push to position national security as a central issue heading into the next federal election. With Beijing's assertiveness showing no signs of slowing, and the ALP's record raising questions among defence experts, Australians may begin to look for leadership that prioritises readiness over rhetoric. Hastie's words serve as a reminder that peace is preserved not by vague ideals but by hard power, strong alliances and leadership that understands the cost of complacency in an increasingly unstable world.