


EDITORIAL

Ukraine deserves more support

By EDITORIAL

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Australia's new \$100m military aid package for Ukraine suggests the Albanese government has grasped the importance of Kyiv's brave fightback against Vladimir Putin's lawless aggression, even for nations far from the battlefield. The package will include \$50m in anti-air missile launchers and missiles, and \$30m in unmanned aerial vehicles crucial for boosting Ukraine's air defences. It will lift Australian support in the two years since the war began to \$1bn.

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its embassy in Kyiv, and conduct diplomatic relations from Poland instead, even though most countries' embassies have long since returned to Kyiv, rankles with Ukrainian officials.

The importance of victory for Ukraine was clearly evident on Friday when [US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing](#) and demanded China "cut back" on its brazen support for Russia in the war. "Russia would struggle to sustain its assault on Ukraine without China's support," Mr Blinken said. "I made it clear that if China does not address this problem, we will", alluding to economic sanctions against Beijing under consideration by the Biden administration because of the way China is helping Russia's war. Last year, 90 per cent of Russian micro-electronics, essential for making missiles, tanks and aircraft,

came from China. Beijing also helped to improve Russia’s satellite capabilities.

The dangers of Mr Xi’s “no limits” alliance with Mr Putin have been clear since the war started. Victory for the Russian tyrant would be a huge boost for dictatorial regimes everywhere, especially China’s as it muscled up to Taiwan.

Mr Marles was the first Australian minister to set foot in Ukraine since Anthony Albanese visited Kyiv in July 2022. Despite the new package, Australia ranks among the lowest donor countries as a proportion of GDP. Australia’s contribution is just 0.041 per cent of GDP, according to the Kiel Institute. Canada, with which we are frequently compared, has pledged \$6.154bn, or 0.3 per cent of GDP, and Japan has donated \$8bn, 0.13 per cent. Since January, Australia has been helping train Ukrainian soldiers in Britain. But Kyiv remains disappointed by the government’s junking of Australia’s fleet of 40-plus MRH-90 [Taipan helicopters rather than donating them to the war effort.](#)

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