



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

DEFENCE SUB-COMMITTEE **JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE**

Inquiry into a Bipartisan Australian Defence Agreement

Issue date: 16 June 2017

Media release

Committee seeks bipartisanship on Defence

Can Australia's two major political parties reach a bipartisan agreement on Defence planning? And should they? A Parliamentary Committee aims to find out.

The [Defence Sub-Committee of the Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade](#) has commenced an [inquiry](#) into the benefits and risks of a *Bipartisan Australian Defence Agreement* as the basis of planning for, and funding of, Australian Defence capability.

Committee Chair [Senator Linda Reynolds](#) said the inquiry will consider options to provide long-term Defence capability planning stability, including reviewing the approaches to strategic Defence planning in other countries such as the USA and Denmark.

"Despite leaders of Government and opposition stating over many years that Defence is a most fundamental task of Government, the nature of Australia's three-year electoral cycle has demonstrated that this stability cannot be assumed, or guaranteed," Senator Reynolds said.

"The capital productivity of the record taxpayer investment indicated by the Integrated Investment Plan relies on stability in strategic guidance which generates efficiency and effectiveness on part of both Defence and Defence Industry."

The committee will inquire into the benefits and risks of a *Bipartisan Australian Defence Agreement* as the basis of planning for, and funding of, Australian Defence capability. The full terms of reference for the inquiry are available on the committee's [website](#).

The Defence Sub-Committee invites submissions from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by these terms of reference. Submissions addressing the terms of reference should be lodged by **15 October 2017**.

Media enquiries:

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC, Chair of the Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

Contact: Amy Blom on (08) 94775411 or Amy.Blom@aph.gov.au

For background:

The Committee Secretariat can be contacted on (02) 6277 2313, or via email at jscfadt@aph.gov.au.