

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Economics, Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Senate Inquiry into manufacturing. Submission by 10/9  
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Dear Committee

We have seen of late how vulnerable Australia is in relation to China and our dependence on them for many of our products. In the event of an open conflict with China we are in big trouble.

Our manufacturing industries have been run down and we need to build them up BUT PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES THAT ALLOW THE ECONOMY TO FUNCTION and critical industries to supply our military forces.

Australia needs billions invested in strategic manufacturing and related infrastructure by government, a development bank, commercial banks and equity finance over the next 20 odd years. This would aid in restoring employment levels pre pandemic. And reduce our reliance on foreign investment and imports and result in profits/taxes.

Why is there not a department for Strategic Industries?

Such as: important defence products; fuel; pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies (I recently had difficulty in sourcing certain pharmaceuticals myself)

Domestically owned firms in the transportation and agricultural equipment sectors - automotive, rail stock, AG machinery; machine tools industry for supplying tools to strategic industries and some manufacturing; essential consumer goods manufacturing - we barely have any clothing manufacturers now.

Telecommunications; and not least low cost energy (nuclear anybody?)

All these must be produced by us in Australia. We cannot depend on the USA (clearly under Biden) and a conflict with our biggest trading partner China is more likely every month. We would run out of supplies in less than a month so says the Engineers Australia report.

Please consider our position - vulnerable and dependent on imports that may stop in an increasingly likely Pacific conflict. DO SOMETHING now!

Thank you

Helen Leach

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Sent from my iPad