
The Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia

Report of the 2003 New Zealand Parliamentary Committee Exchange

6-11 April 2003

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade

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Chairman's Foreword

Australia and New Zealand have a long and valued history and, as a result, a mutual desire to strengthen wherever possible our social, trade, defence and security interests. The Parliaments of both countries recognise the merit in building on our already strong relationship by having an annual exchange of parliamentary committees.

During the period 6-11 April 2003 the Defence Sub-Committee of the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade visited New Zealand as part of the 2003 parliamentary committee exchange program.

The first objective of the visit was to meet with New Zealand parliamentarians to share ideas and build and enhance relationships between the two Parliaments. This objective was fulfilled through a series of high level meetings with the Speaker of the New Zealand Parliament, the Hon Jonathan Hunt, MP, the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon Bill English, MP, the Minister of Defence, the Hon Mark Burton, MP, and members of the New Zealand Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee.

The second objective of the visit ties in with the sub-committee's current inquiry into Australia's maritime strategy. The majority of meetings during the four day visit were with New Zealand Defence personnel who provided briefings on key developments and initiatives in New Zealand Defence policy and capability. These meetings were constructive and provided an alternative perspective to some of the issues that are currently being examined by the sub-committee as part of its inquiry into Australia's maritime strategy.

In conclusion, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the range of groups and individuals with whom we met with in New Zealand. They welcomed us and provided excellent briefings on New Zealand's Defence policy and capability. Their support and cooperation ensured that this was a productive and beneficial parliamentary committee exchange.

Hon Bruce Scott, MP
Chair Defence Sub-Committee



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Membership of the Committee

Chair Senator A B Ferguson

Deputy Chair Hon L J Brereton, MP

Members

Senator A Bartlett (from 1/7/02)	Hon K C Beazley, MP
Senator M Bishop (from 1/7/02; to 19/8/02)	Hon A R Bevis, MP
Senator the Hon N Bolkus (from 1/7/02)	Hon G J Edwards, MP
Senator V W Bourne (to 30/6/02)	Mr L D T Ferguson, MP
Senator P H Calvert (to 19/8/02)	Mrs J Gash, MP
Senator H G P Chapman (to 30/6/02)	Mr D P M Hawker, MP
Senator the Hon P Cook	Hon D F Jull, MP
Senator A Eggleston (from 1/7/02)	Mr P J Lindsay, MP
Senator C Evans	Hon Dr S P Martin, MP (to 16/8/02)
Senator B Gibbs (to 30/6/02)	Hon J E Moylan, MP
Senator B Harradine	Mr G R Nairn, MP
Senator S Hutchins (to 30/6/02; from 19/8/02)	Hon L R S Price, MP
Senator D Johnston (from 22/8/02)	
Senator J A L Macdonald	Hon G D Prosser, MP
Senator K O'Brien (from 1/7/02)	Hon B C Scott, MP
Senator M A Payne	Hon W E Snowdon, MP
Senator the Hon C Schacht (to 30/6/02)	Hon A M Somlyay, MP
Hon B G Baird, MP	Mr C P Thompson, MP
Mr R C Baldwin, MP	

Secretary Dr Margot Kerley



Membership of the Defence Sub-Committee

Chair	Hon B C Scott, MP	
Deputy Chair	Hon L R S Price, MP	
Members	Senator C Evans	Mr R C Baldwin, MP
	Senator A B Ferguson	Hon K C Beazley, MP
	Senator S Hutchins (to 30/6/02; from 19/8/02)	Hon A R Bevis, MP
	Senator D Johnston (from 22/8/02)	Hon L J Brereton, MP
	Senator J A L Macdonald	Mr AM Byrne, MP
	Senator M A Payne	Hon G J Edwards, MP
		Mrs J Gash, MP
		Mr D P M Hawker, MP
		Mr P J Lindsay, MP
		Mr G R Nairn, MP
		Hon W E Snowdon, MP
		Hon A M Somlyay, MP
		Mr C P Thompson, MP
Secretary	Mr Stephen Boyd	
Defence Adviser	Wing Commander Rob Scrivener AM, CSM	
Administrative Officer	Ms Emma Flynn	



Membership of the Defence Sub-Committee Delegation to NZ

Chair Hon Bruce Scott, MP

Deputy Chair Hon Roger Price, MP

Members Mr Bob Baldwin, MP

 Hon Arch Bevis, MP

Senator David Johnston

Senator Sandy Macdonald

Senator Marise Payne

Secretary Mr Stephen Boyd



Maritime Strategy

terms of reference

The primary priority for the Australian Defence Force (ADF), identified in the White Paper *Defence 2000*, is 'to defend Australia from any credible attack, without relying on help from the combat forces of any other country'.

The key to defending Australia is 'to control the air and sea approaches to our continent, so as to deny them to hostile ships and aircraft, and provide maximum freedom of action for our forces'. For this purpose Australia relies on a 'fundamentally maritime strategy'. To successfully apply a maritime strategy the Australian Defence Organisation (ADO) will 'maintain and further develop an integrated and balanced joint force'.

This inquiry aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of Maritime Strategy and its place within Australia's broader military strategy and defence policy. It is **not limited** to an examination of Australia's naval or maritime forces nor is it focused only on the Defence of Australia.

The inquiry also seeks to understand the implications of a Maritime Strategy for the other tasks set out in the White Paper, namely: contributing to the security of our immediate neighbourhood; contributing effectively to international coalitions beyond our immediate neighbourhood; and support of peacetime national tasks.

Terms of Reference

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade shall inquire into and report on the ADO ability to deliver the necessary capabilities to meet Australia's strategic interests and objectives as defined in *Defence 2000*, with specific reference to the:

- ADO capability to apply the maritime strategy outlined in *Defence 2000* in the current strategic environment;
- primary roles in Australia's maritime strategy of the key components of the ADO, including the three services, Defence Intelligence Organisation and ADF Command and Control structure;
- impact of Australia's maritime strategy on ADF capacity to participate in combined, multi-national regional and global coalition military operations;
- integration of maritime strategy with the other elements of Australian national power to achieve specified national strategic interests and objectives;
- impact of the evolving strategic environment on Australia's maritime strategy; and
- integration of Australian Defence Industry into capability development to support a maritime strategy.



List of abbreviations

ADA	Australian Defence Association
ADF	Australian Defence Force
ASPI	Australian Strategic Policy Institute
CBRNE	Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives
CDF	Chief of Defence Force
DAA	Defeat of attacks on Australia
Defence	Department of Defence
DPF	New Zealand Defence Policy Framework
IRR	Incident Response Regiment
IRS	Information Research Service, Parliamentary Library
MOLE	Manoeuvre Operations in the Littoral Environment
NZDF	New Zealand Defence Force
NZFADT	New Zealand Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
NZPCEP	New Zealand Parliamentary Committee Exchange Program
SLOCs	Sea Lines of Communication
TAG	Tactical Assault Group
UAV	Uninhabited Air Vehicle
UCAV	Uninhabited Combat Aerial Vehicle



Acknowledgements

During the visit to New Zealand between 6 and 11 April 2003, the delegation was provided with excellent support and advice. Mr Max Simmons of the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs is to be congratulated for planning and organising a program of meetings which more than met the needs of the delegation.

In addition, the delegation acknowledges the support provided by HE Mr Bob Cotton, High Commissioner to New Zealand and his staff. In particular, the Defence Attaché Colonel Brian Hall deserves praise for the support he provided.



Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) and the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at ANU be encouraged to examine with their NZ counterparts opportunities for joint research projects. The Ministers for Defence and Foreign Affairs should consider whether any additional resources are needed for this activity [Paragraph 4.36].

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Presiding Officers give consideration to the proposal that some members of the Committee attend, as observers, General Conferences of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP) [Paragraph 4.37].