

ADF Posture Review

VZCZCZZ001
RAAUZHSW RAYLSA 3072 2080637-UUUU--RAYLSA RAYLSF RAYLSE
RAYLSG RAYLSB RAYLSC RAYLSD.
ZNR UUUUU
R 270630Z JUL 11
FM CN AUSTRALIA
TO AIG 3600
AIG 3602
RAN ALL SHORE 1/3
RAN ALL SHORE 2/3
RAN ALL SHORE 3/3

BT
UNCLAS

SIC WAA/Z4P

ORIGNO: 3654/DFMS

052 ALL SHIP 052 ALL SHORE 040 ALL OVERSEAS

AUSTCOM KUALA LUMPUR, WELLINGTON, HONIARA, SINGAPORE, AUSTCOM SUVA,
AUSTEMB SEOUL (FOR DEFENCE ADVISER), AUSTEMB BERLIN, AUSTEMB BEIJING,
MANILA, PARIS EMB, TOKYO, ROME, BANGKOK, PHNOM PENH (FOR DEFENCE
ATTACHE), AUSTCOM LONDON (FOR HADS), AUSTCOM PORT MORESBY (FOR HADS
PNG), AUSTEMB JAKARTA (FOR NAVAL ATTACHE), AUSTCOM NUKU ALOFA, APIA
AND PORT VILA (FOR RAN ADVISER) AUSTEMB POHNPEI FOR MSA/FMS/RMI

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE POSTURE REVIEW

1. I HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH OVER 3,500 OFFICERS AND
SAILORS SINCE ASSUMING COMMAND OF OUR NAVY. THOSE DISCUSSIONS HAVE
BEEN VERY INFORMATIVE AND ASSISTED ME GREATLY IN GETTING AN EARLY AND
UP-TO-DATE SENSE OF WHAT IS ON YOUR MINDS. DURING THOSE DISCUSSIONS
THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST REGARDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE
AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE POSTURE REVIEW ANNOUNCED RECENTLY BY THE
MINISTER FOR DEFENCE. THE REVIEW WILL FOCUS ON THE LONG TERM
GEOGRAPHIC DISPOSITION OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE AND ITS
SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE. THE REVIEW HAS RECEIVED MUCH MEDIA
ATTENTION AND WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DO SO FOR SOME TIME. SOME MEDIA
SOURCES HAVE MADE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE, THEIR OWN PRESUMPTIONS
WHICH IN TURN WILL UNDERSTANDABLY GENERATE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR
MANY NAVY PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

2. HAVING HEARD YOUR QUESTIONS, I WOULD LIKE TO PUT THIS REVIEW INTO
PERSPECTIVE FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES. AS THE MINISTER MADE CLEAR IN
HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WHEN ANNOUNCING THE REVIEW QUOTE I CAUTION AND
SAY I AM NOT PROPOSING TO PRE-JUDGE THIS (THE REVIEW OUTCOMES), AND
WE SHOULD NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES. THE OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF
THE EXPERT PANELS WORK WILL BE TO GIVE ADVICE ON THE PORTING OR THE
BASING ARRANGEMENTS SO FAR AS SOME OF OUR NEW AMPHIBIOUS NAVY AND
AERIAL ASSETS ARE CONCERNED UNQUOTE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND
THE INTENT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DIRECTION AND ITS TIMEFRAME. THE
REVIEW SEEKS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW AND WHERE AUSTRALIA'S DEFENCE
ASSETS NEED TO BE POSITIONED TO BEST DEFEND AND SERVE AUSTRALIA OVER
THE LONGER TERM.

3. NAVY IS ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO THIS REVIEW AS IT GETS UNDERWAY.
THE REASONS FOR OUR CURRENT GEOGRAPHICAL POSTURE ARE A MIX OF
STRATEGIC AND HISTORICAL ONES. THIS REVIEW WILL ALLOW CONSIDERATION
OF OUR POSTURE AND ITS RELEVANCE TO OUR FUTURE STRATEGIC
CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS IS IMPORTANT LONG TERM WORK ABOUT WHICH I COMMIT
TO KEEPING YOU ALL INFORMED OF THE OUTCOMES

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