



Prime Minister Scott Morrison
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

A new business and industry alliance has been created to argue for greater Australian sovereign capability and to draw attention to Australia's dependence on overseas nations for vital manufactures and essential needs. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted our reliance on foreign enterprises and governments for PPE, respirators and essential vaccines and pharmaceuticals. The problem extends to other key industry domains.

The new Australian Sovereign Capability Alliance (ASCA) has commissioned tertiary research by Flinders University's 'Australian Industrial Transformation Institute' which defines the challenge ahead. This first report will be published tomorrow, 13 September, and contains findings both revealing and concerning to the nation. A key recommendation is that Australia research and examines the supply chains in five key industry sectors (health, defence and space, energy resources and infrastructure, science communications and technology and advanced manufacturing) to identify what must be made in Australia if we are to remain sovereign.

ASCA asks that your government respond to the report and the following recommendations.

- . That government appoint a senior minister for sovereign capability supported by a dedicated agency to determine, implement and report progress on a plan of action.
- . That cabinet form a dedicated committee for sovereign capability, chaired by the minister for sovereign capability which brings together all relevant portfolios
- . That government conduct a President Biden style (Executive Order 14017) 100 day top-down review of Australia's sectoral supply chain resilience that is underpinned by nomination of key capabilities for independent sovereign control and ownership.
- . That government resets its industry policy, the \$1.5bn 'Modern Manufacturing Strategy', the \$800m Australian Research Council Grants programme and whatever additional resources are needed around ensuring Australia's essential manufacturing needs are under sovereign control.

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ASCA notes that the government has already acted on many of the challenges noted in this research but that much remains to be done, requiring new approaches and a concerted effort. We look forward to your response and thank you for considering the matter.

Martin

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith
Director Australian Sovereign Capability Alliance

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AUSTRALIAN SOVEREIGN
CAPABILITY

12 September 2021