

Recently the USA decommissioned a conventionally powered Aircraft carrier, and is decommissioning several nuclear powered aircraft carriers. Rather than build submarines and frigates Australian naval capacity could be used to refurbish aircraft carriers and other US ships to be placed in the service of the Australian navy.

If there is ever a large conflagration involving the US and Australia, the capacity to repair large US ships would be critical to success, and the best place to repair or refurbish shipd would be in South Australia. This would build a capacity which would boost Australia's capacity, and to allow the purchase of ships and subs from sources which have greater economies of scale.

Our ship building, repair and refurbishment capacity would be retained whilst the procurement of ships and subs outside Australia could be considered.

Without aircraft carrier capacity, Australia has very limited ability to project force or to contribute to strategic defence in Asia and the Pacific.

US ships are regularly retired and could be refurbished rather than decommissioned.

Yours faithfully,

Grant Spork