



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence Sub Committee

Chair: Senator Alan Ferguson
SubComm Chair: Hon. Bruce Scott MP

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 17 October 2006

Regional trends and the consequences for Australian defence

Round table in Canberra on 20 October

Strategic trends in Australia's region and the consequences for Australian defence will be the focus of a public round table conducted by the Defence Sub-Committee on Friday, 20 October in Canberra.

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade round table will discuss economic, social and strategic trends in the region which have the potential to impact Australia's defence capabilities.

"Australia needs to address a wide range of strategic considerations," Sub-Committee Chairman Bruce Scott said.

"Transnational crime, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and even disease impact Australia's defence requirements. The roundtable format of this hearing will enable the Committee to engage a range of experts in an interactive manner, thereby gaining a greater depth of information."

Participants of the roundtable will include representatives from the Department of Defence, the Australian Federal Police, ASPI, the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU, Knowledge Pond Pty Ltd and the Centre for Independent Studies.

Submissions received by the Committee and transcripts of the public hearing will be available on the Committee's website.

Program for Public Hearing, 20 October

Parliament House, Canberra, Room 2R1

9:30 am

Session I

The economic, social and strategic trends in our region

11:00 am

Session II

The consequences of regional trends on Australian defence requirements

12:30 pm

Close

For media inquiries, contact the Sub-Committee Chairman, the Hon Bruce Scott MP on 02 6277 4949 or 07 4662 2715.

For all other inquiries, contact the Inquiry Secretary, Margot Kerley, on 02 6277 4629 or visit the committee website at

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/esstrends/index.htm>