



**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
Defence Sub-Committee
Chairman, Hon Bruce Scott, MP**

CANBERRA

1 September 2002

**The role of Maritime Strategy in
Australia's Defence Policy**

The Defence sub-committee of the Joint Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee will conduct an inquiry into the role of maritime strategy in Australia's defence policy.

The 2000 Defence White Paper, in referring to a maritime strategy, states that '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.'

The inquiry aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of 'maritime strategy' and its place within Australia's broader military strategy and defence policy.

The inquiry is **not limited** to an examination of Australia's naval or maritime forces nor is it focused only on the Defence of Australia.

For example, the inquiry will examine the implications of maritime strategy to other tasks set out in the White Paper, namely how Australia's defence policy contributes to:

- the security of our immediate neighbourhood;
- international coalitions beyond our immediate neighbourhood; and
- support for peacetime national tasks.

The inquiry is challenging and particularly significant in ensuring that Australia's maritime strategy effectively underpins broader defence policy and helps to achieve national security objectives.

Given the significant developments in the international security environment, it is timely to conduct this examination and ensure that Australia's defence strategy is adequate and capable of meeting new threats such as transnational terrorism.

The closing date for submissions to the inquiry is Friday, 25 October 2002.

**The terms of reference can be found on the committee's website at:
<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/index.htm>**

For comment, contact Mr Bruce Scott on (07) 4662 2715 or 0427 743 126. For information, phone the sub-committee secretary, Mr Stephen Boyd on (02) 6277 2368.