



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 23/03/06

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

Regional trends and the consequences for Australian defence

Parliament's Defence Sub Committee is conducting an inquiry into the economic, social and strategic trends in Australia's region and the consequences for Australia's defence requirements.

The Committee is to review economic, social and strategic trends in the region which have the potential to impact Australia's defence capabilities.

Announcing the new inquiry, the Sub-Committee Chairman, the Hon Bruce Scott MP, reiterated the importance of regional trends and the implications for Australian defence.

"This inquiry is an opportunity for the Defence Sub-Committee to, once again, focus its attention on the strategic considerations of our immediate region," Mr Scott said.

The Committee believes that Australia's defence capabilities need to be closely matched to regional imperatives.

"The growth of regional and Asia Pacific economies, increasing globalisation as well as continuing security challenges in the South Pacific are just some of the factors which must be considered in relation to Australian defence capabilities."

The Committee will receive written submissions until 30 April 2006, after which it will conduct a series of public hearings. Contributions are welcome from anyone with an interest in the issues raised by the terms of reference.

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, Sara Edson, on 02 6277 4547 or visit the committee website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/jfadt/reports.htm