

SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF

2013 White Paper Issues 01
Secretary's and CDF's pack

WHITE PAPER 01: DEFENCE WHITE PAPER - POLICY CONTENT AND REACTIONS

Key Facts

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2013 White Paper contains new capability commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 new-build EA-18G Growlers; • suspension of military-off-the-shelf Future Submarine designs; • replacement of the Armidale Class patrol boats; and • early consideration of options to replace HMAS Success and Sirius. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It provides a budget model focused on the Forward Estimates period with six years of further guidance, and notes Government's long-term intent to increase funding towards two per cent of GDP.
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Key Issues

- This Defence White Paper aligns with the Government's *National Security Strategy* and *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper.
- These documents collectively emphasise that Australia's future security is tied to the stability and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region.

Strategic judgements and interests

- This White Paper addresses how Defence can work to protect Australia's interests in the changing strategic environment.
- The White Paper aligns with the Government's *National Security Strategy* and *Australia in the Asian Century* White Paper.
 - Their common theme is that Australia's future security is tied to the stability and prosperity of the diverse and dynamic Indo-Pacific region.
 - The rise of the Indo-Pacific is a story of China's rise, but also entails the rise of India, Indonesia and other regional nations.

- The White Paper considers significant developments that have changed our strategic circumstances since the release of the previous White Paper in 2009, including:
 - The accelerated shift of global strategic weight from the West to East, which is changing the established strategic order and contributing to the emergence of an Indo-Pacific strategic arc;
 - Regional military modernisation, which is challenging the military capability advantages Australia has traditionally enjoyed, while also providing opportunities for deeper defence cooperation;
 - The ADF's operational drawdown from Afghanistan and Solomon Islands after more than a decade of high tempo operations;
 - The United States' multi-dimensional rebalance to the Asia Pacific and Australia's enhanced practical cooperation with the United States;
 - The release of the 2012 Australian Defence Force Posture Review; and
 - The ongoing effects of the Global Financial Crisis.
- In considering these developments, the White Paper identifies that the strategic shift to the Indo-Pacific means growing prosperity, but also brings some uncertainty and risk.
 - The security architecture in our region that will help manage security risks is still evolving, but is being enhanced through the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus, ASEAN Regional Forum and other valuable regional forums.
 - Territorial and sovereignty claims and disputes remain, notably in the East China Sea and South China Sea.
 - The Korean Peninsula continues to be a flashpoint.
 - Regional military modernisation is increasing the ability of nations to exert military power, notably in the maritime domain.
 - More than any other, the relationship between the US and China will determine the outlook for the region.
 - Some competition is inevitable but neither country wants conflict and both seek stability and prosperity.
 - We see the most likely future as one in which both the US and China maintain a constructive relationship encompassing both competition and cooperation.

- The White Paper identifies that working with regional partners and allies will be key to achieving Australia's commitment to support regional stability and security.
 - Our Alliance with the United States remains our most important partnership and a cornerstone of our defence policy.
 - US engagement has underpinned peace and security in our region for decades and it will continue to do so.
 - Our partnership with Indonesia is given priority as our most important in the region.
 - We will also strengthen other longstanding relationships across the region including with Japan, China, India, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Singapore.
- The White Paper emphasises that Australia does not have to choose between our alliance with the US and our partnership with China.
 - Those two countries don't believe they must choose between their economic and security relationships. Nor should we.
- We seek to have a comprehensive and constructive engagement with China.
 - A significant part of our strengthening relationship with China will be achieved through our expanding bilateral defence links, including the establishment of new initiatives between the Australian Defence Force and the People's Liberation Army.

Capability enhancement

- The White Paper builds upon the Defence force modernisation and transformation program the Government initiated in 2009.
 - It reiterates Government's commitment to acquiring:
 - two Landing Helicopter Dock amphibious ships;
 - three Air Warfare Destroyers;
 - six C-17 heavy lift aircraft;
 - new combat and logistics vehicles for the Australian Army and Bushmaster Protected Mobility Vehicles;
 - the Joint Strike Fighter; and
 - 12 Future Submarines.

- It also includes new commitments, including:
 - the acquisition of 12 new-build EA-18G Growler aircraft, to assure Australia's air combat capability as we transition to the Joint Strike Fighter;
 - suspension of further investigation of military off-the-shelf (MOTS) designs for Future Submarines, to enable Defence to focus on 'evolved Collins' and new design options;
 - the undertaking of detailed work to progress plans to establish a land-based test facility - the Submarine Propulsion Energy Support and Integration Facility - which will assist in the design, delivery and sustainment of the Future Submarines;
 - early replacement of the Armidale Class Patrol Boats and the Pacific Patrol Boats; and
 - early consideration of options to replace the supply ships HMAS *Success* and HMAS *Sirius*.
- The White Paper also stated that Defence will analyse the potential expansion of the role of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) in the ADF to include interdiction and close air support, subject to policy development and Government decision.
 - Before any decision to acquire armed UAVs is made, a number of relevant legal and policy issues will be considered.
 - These include international and domestic laws relating to their operation, suitable command and control mechanisms, and the implications of the operation of these systems for operators and the Defence organisation more broadly.

Budget and reform

- The White Paper highlights a funding model for Defence based on the Budget's four-year forward estimates cycle, with subsequent six-year general guidance to assist Defence capability planning.
- The forward estimate years for the forthcoming budget will match, indeed, have a modest increase on the forward estimates for the previous budget.
 - The Government will continue to provide over \$100 billion in the forward estimate years (\$113.1 billion including \$1.4 billion for Operations) to Defence over the forward estimates, with the budget growing from \$25.3 billion in 2013-14 to \$30.7 billion in 2016-17.

- This compares to \$103.2 billion (including \$1.9 billion for operations) in the 2012-13 budget forward estimates.
- For general guidance for Defence planning purposes, the Government has also provided Defence with funding guidance of around \$220 billion over the subsequent six years from 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- This six-year funding guidance is based on the need to continue increasing investment in Defence capabilities as outlined in the White Paper and an assessment of sustainable growth in the Defence Budget after 2016-17.
- This will ensure that Australia retains one of the most capable militaries in our region.
- The Government's stated long-term objective is to increase Defence funding towards a target of 2 per cent of GDP, as and when fiscal circumstances allow.
- Government's commitments to Defence funding and how they relate to Government's defence priorities are matters for Government decision over time.
- The White Paper reinforces Defence's program of wide-ranging reforms to improve efficiency, strengthen procurement processes, remove gender restrictions from combat roles, and match our organisational culture to community standards.

Force posture

- The White Paper also adjusts our Defence posture.
 - The ADF's operational drawdown will mean that the ADF will have increased capacity to undertake cooperative exercises and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations in the region.
 - This will ensure that our Defence personnel continue to gain valuable operational experience while building important people-to-people connections and increased regional capacity.
 - Our Landing Helicopter Dock navy ships entering service from next year will be part of an amphibious capability allowing cooperation and enhanced support to the region.
 - The White Paper commits Defence to enhancing its visible posture and presence in the north and west of Australia.

- Defence has already made substantial progress in implementing recommendations from the 2012 ADF Posture Review.
- Defence will implement a number of other recommendations through the Defence Capability Plan and Major Capital Facilities Program.

Defence industry

- The White Paper reinforces the criticality of Australia's defence industry and our defence science and innovation community to the development, employment, and sustainment of capabilities.
- It includes specific decisions to support our maritime shipbuilding to meet the requirements of our Future Submarine Program and broader long-term needs.
- As well as a number of existing and new programs that will support a vibrant industry and help us to translate Australian innovation into capability benefit for the ADF.
 - The Government is planning to release an updated public Defence Capability Plan and Defence Capability Guide by the end of 2012-13, and an updated Defence Industry Policy Statement in the coming months.

Reactions to the White Paper

- We have seen a range of analysts commend the White Paper's strategic judgements and outlook - and particularly the approach the White Paper takes to dealing with the shift of strategic weight to our region.
- I note that there has been commentary on the White Paper's capability decisions and funding model.
 - As the Government's document, the White Paper's coverage of these issues is a matter for the Government.
 - The Government has stated its defence budget commitments in the 2013-14 budget announcement.
- The strategic judgements and policy settings in the White Paper have been received positively in our region.
 - Media reporting and official statements indicate that DWP2013 has been received positively in China.

- China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said on 3 May that DWP2013 "demonstrates the importance placed by Australia on the development of China-Australia relations as well as Australia's positive attitude".

Question: Is there a disconnect between the weapons being purchased and the White Paper adopting a softer stance on China than in 2009?

- The White Paper outlines the Government's judgement that a strong, capable, and credible ADF underpins our own national security, and is a core element of our broader influence and engagement in our region.
- To that end, the 2013 Defence White Paper reflects the Government's strong commitment to maintaining a highly skilled, capable and adaptable ADF.

If asked: Why has the Government decided to purchase EA-18G Growlers when it has already committed to the Joint Strike Fighter?

- The decision to acquire 12 new-build EA-18G Growler aircraft has been taken to assure Australia's air combat capability through the transition period to the Joint Strike Fighter.
- The Government remains committed to acquiring the fifth-generation Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, with three operational squadrons planned to enter service beginning around 2020 to replace the F/A-18A/B Hornet aircraft.
- We will purchase the Growlers in the financial years 14-15 and 15-16, and we'll have, on the advice of the Chief of Air Force, initial operating capability by 2018.

If asked: Why has the Government decided to focus on an 'evolved Collins' concept for the Future Submarines?

- The Government has decided to focus resources on progressing an 'evolved Collins' or a new design option for the Future Submarines, as these options are likely to best meet Australia's future strategic and capability requirements.
- The Minister for Defence stated on 6 May that military off-the-shelf options don't "give Australia either the operational or the strategic reach that we need for our maritime country and maritime continent to patrol

our northern and western approaches and to reach to the Indonesian archipelago”.

If asked: What have been the regional reactions to the Defence White Paper?

- While it is not appropriate to comment on the views of foreign Governments expressed in private discussions, I understand that the strategic judgements and policy settings in the White Paper have generally been well received.
- I also understand that regional media coverage on the White Paper has been broadly positive.

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BACKGROUND

ADF Principal Tasks

- Defence will assist Government in responding to these emerging challenges through structuring and positioning the ADF to achieve the demands of its enduring Principal Tasks, which are as follows:
 - the defence of Australia against direct armed attack;
 - security, stability and cohesion of our immediate neighbourhood;
 - stability of the Indo-Pacific region, with a priority on Southeast Asia; and
 - a stable, rules-based global order.

National security contributions

- The White Paper recognises Defence's significant contribution to Australia's national security arrangements, including leadership in areas such as cyber security and national security science and innovation.
- It announces the Government's decision to rename the Defence Signals Directorate to the Australian Signals Directorate, and the Defence Imagery and Geospatial Organisation to the Australian Geospatial-Intelligence Organisation.

2013-14 Defence Budget

- In the 14 May budget announcement, the Government committed to continue to provide Defence with over \$100 billion in the forward estimate years (\$113.1 billion including \$1.4 billion for Operations) with the budget growing from \$25.3 billion in 2013-14 to \$30.7 billion in 2016-17. This compares to \$103.2 billion (including \$1.9 billion for operations) in the 2012-13 budget forward estimates.
- For general guidance for Defence planning purposes, the Government also announced that it would provide Defence with funding guidance of around \$220 billion over the subsequent six years from 2017-18 to 2022-23.

Reactions - Strategic Analysis

- DWP2013's strategic analysis has received predominantly positive support amongst commentators. It has been perceived as adopting a more diplomatic and balanced approach than the 2009 White Paper – particularly in its references to China. DEP2013's strategic analysis has been commended by analysts including Peter Jennings (ASPI Strategist, 3 May), Geoffrey Barker (Australian Financial Review, 7 May) and James Brown (The Australian, 8 May).
- A small number of commentators, including Adam Lockyer (Canberra Times, 6 May) and Cameron Stewart (Weekend Australian, 4 May) have criticised DWP2013, suggesting that it lacks strategic vision. Nicholas Stuart (Canberra Times, 13 May) said the document's reliance on conventional concepts of warfare meant it failed to develop useful responses to non-traditional threats. Hugh White (The Age, 14 May) criticised DWP2013 for being premised on overly "optimistic assumptions" pertaining to regional security – particularly the US-China relationship), ADF capability needs and long-term budget implications.
- Opposition Defence spokesperson, Senator David Johnston, stated on 3 May that "the 2013 White Paper has no plan, no schedule, and no money" and said the Opposition is committed to "re-doing" the White Paper if elected.

- Cable reporting and reactions from foreign government officials in White Paper briefings indicate that regional governments are comfortable with the strategic judgements in the White Paper.
- Regional press reporting on the White Paper has also been broadly welcoming of the new White Paper. Summaries of press reports in China, Singapore and Indonesia offer largely positive views of the White Paper's strategic judgements. There appears to be limited reporting emerging from the US, though a report by Michael Green (Lowy Interpreter, 6 May) which has received press coverage was very positive about the White Paper's strategic analysis but critical of the current level of Defence funding.

Reactions – Approach to China

- There has been substantial reporting on DWP2013's approach to China, most of which has been supportive of the approach taken to dealing with China's rise. The language on China has been welcomed by commentators including Daniel Flitton (The Age, 4 May), Tony Walker (Australian Financial Review, 4 May) and Paul Dibb (The Australian, 6 May). A small number of commentators including Peter Hartcher (SMH, 7 May) argue that DWP2013 understates the threat posed by China.
- On 31 May, John Kerin of the Australian Financial Review drew on suggestions by Mark Thomson of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute that there is a disconnect between the public stance on encouraging China's peaceful rise, and the capabilities the ADF is acquiring. Our response to Mr Kerin's media enquiry stipulated that a credible and capable ADF underpins our engagement in the region.
- Media reporting and official statements indicate that DWP2013 has been received positively in China. Xinhua (3 May) reported that Australia had "toned down some of the more controversial judgments" made in 2009, and the China Daily (4 May) reported that Australia has adopted a "conciliatory tone" and "welcoming attitude" to China's rise. Lisa Murray (Australian Financial Review, 4 May) cites Colonel Liu Mingfu of the PLA National Defence University as saying that DWP2013 is "a significant step in the right direction" but views that Australia should maintain neutrality in the region. China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying said on 3 May that DWP2013 "demonstrates the importance placed by Australia on the development of China-Australia relations as well as Australia's positive attitude".

Reactions - Budget Model

- The main source of negative commentary has been in relation to the absence of a detailed budget model to support the capability announcements. Cameron Stewart and Greg Sheridan (The Australian, 4 May), Christopher Joye (Australian Financial Review, 4 May), Simon Benson (Daily Telegraph, 6 May), Paul Dibb (The Australian, 6 May) and other commentators have raised concerns about the long-term affordability of the plans in DWP2013. Alan Kohler (The Australian, 7 May 2013) and Nicholas Stuart (Canberra Times, 7 May) criticised DWP2013's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)-based funding model, suggesting budgets should be determined by force structure requirements rather than as a percentage of GDP.
- Senator David Johnston stated on 3 May that DWP2013's budget chapter (Chapter 7) lacked detail, and said that should the Coalition attain Government and 'redo' the White Paper, it will provide "dollar figure commitments" for Defence. Senator Johnston has also said that three per cent annual growth indexed at 2.5 per cent, pursuant to the 2009 Defence White Paper, is required.

Reactions - Force Structure and Posture

- The decision to suspend the consideration of options to purchase military-off-the-shelf Future Submarines has also received mixed media coverage. Analysts including Cameron

Stewart (The Australian, 4 May), Brian Toohey (Australian Financial Review, 4 May) and Christopher Joye (Australian Financial Review, 4 May) suggested this is a high-risk approach due to high costs, long lead times and Australia's chequered history in delivering and sustaining submarines. Paul Dibb (The Australian, 6 May) critiqued the Future Submarine program more broadly by querying the strategic rationale behind the need to acquire 12 large submarines.

- Senator David Johnston said, in a visit to South Australia on 8 May, that he accepted the Federal Government was "taking the best available professional and technical advice" in focussing on indigenous submarine design options and said the Coalition would also deliver the Future Submarines in South Australia. Senator Johnston has, however, argued that the Opposition would be cautious about investigating an "evolved Collins" concept, suggesting on 3 May that "I think Collins has been a very expensive disaster".
- Plans to acquire 12 EA-18G Growlers have generated some interest. Andrew Davies (ASPI Strategist, 3 May) argues the decision is sensible and assures Australia's air combat capability. Greg Sheridan (The Australian, 4 May) viewed the decision poorly, suggesting the Growler lacks compatibility with, and could further delay acquisition of, the Joint Strike Fighter.
- Jai Galliot (Canberra Times, 10 May) reported that DWP2013 suggests the Government is looking to purchase a fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), and argued that ethical questions (such as the safety of the systems and whether their use will increase the likelihood of Government going to war) should be considered before any purchase of armed UAVs.
- Christopher Joye and John Kerin (Australian Financial Review, 6 May) argue the DWP2013 indicates that Australia is developing offensive cyber capabilities, citing claims by Tobias Feakin (ASPI) that DWP2013 introduces the concept of "exploiting cyber power".
- John Kerin (Australian Financial Review, 6 May) reported that through DWP2013 the Government has "backed away from an election pledge not to cut the size of the military forces". Kerin quotes Coalition defence spokesman Stuart Robert as saying it is "outrageous" that the Government would leave open the option to cut the size of the military as "you are either cutting or you're not, but this just leaves Defence hanging".

Reactions - Australian defence industry

- Deborah Snow and David Wroe (SMH, 4 May) reported on industry groups' cautious optimism about DWP2013's industry policies and commitment to a naval shipbuilding industry. They quote the Australian Industry Group as saying the DWP2013 package would give the local defence industry "a degree of assurance about its long-term survival".
- Sarah Martin and Verity Edwards (Weekend Australian, 4 May) and Lauren Novak (Adelaide Advertiser, 4 May) reported that defence industry welcomed the commitment to assemble Future Submarines in South Australia, but remains concerned the potential gap in work between the delivery of the last Air Warfare Destroyers and the construction of Future Submarines.

Reactions - Force Posture

- The NT Business Review reported on 9 May that DWP2013's commitment to a more active, visible defence presence in Australia's north and west would give a financial "boost" to the Northern Territory, including through building works associated with the development of a loading facility at East Arm Wharf and upgrades to RAAF Base Tindal.
- Peter Dean (SMH, 6 May) reported that with the release of DWP2013 "Defence priorities should be oriented towards providing the ADF with a stronger presence in the north and north-west of Australia and... into south-east Asia and the South Pacific".

SENATE ESTIMATES BRIEF

2013 White Paper Issues 02
Secretary's and CDF's pack

WHITE PAPER 02: 2013 DEFENCE WHITE PAPER - LONG-TERM BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Key Facts

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The 2013 Defence White Paper funding model, as reflected in the 2013-14 budget, is focused on the forward estimates period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government's direction provides a sufficient basis for Defence planning, including through the general guidance for the six-year period beyond the forward estimates.
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Key Issues

- Defence's funding model, as outlined in the White Paper and in greater detail in the 2013-14 Budget, is based on the four-year forward estimates cycle, with subsequent six-year general guidance to assist Defence capability planning.
 - This guidance aligns with the Commonwealth budget process and also with the four-year Defence Capability Plan and six-year Defence Capability Guide, which together cover the decade.
- Defence's funding model is sufficiently forward looking to guide capability planning whilst still retaining flexibility to review and adjust plans as needed.
 - This flexibility is appropriate for the evolving nature of Australia's strategic and fiscal circumstances.
- The Government continues to provide funding for both ADF operations and priority capabilities as required.
 - This was demonstrated with funding for the Growler aircraft acquisition announced in the White Paper.
- The forward estimates years for the forthcoming budget will match, indeed, have a modest increase on the forward estimates for the previous budget.
- The Government will continue to provide over \$100 billion (\$113.1 billion, including \$1.4 billion for Operations) to Defence over the

forward estimates, with the budget growing from \$25.3 billion in 2013-14 to \$30.7 billion in 2016-17.

- This compares to \$103.2 billion (including \$1.9 billion for operations) in the 2012-13 budget forward estimates.
- For general guidance for Defence planning purposes, the Government has also provided Defence with funding guidance of around \$220 billion over the subsequent six years from 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- This six-year funding guidance is based on the need to continue increasing investment in Defence capabilities as outlined in the White Paper and an assessment of sustainable growth in the Defence Budget after 2016-17.
- This will ensure that Australia retains one of the most capable militaries in our region.
- The Government's stated long-term objective is to increase Defence funding towards a target of 2 per cent of GDP, as and when fiscal circumstances allow.
 - The Government has stated that fiscal circumstances mean that it is impossible to provide a meaningful long-term budget model for Defence at this time.
- Government's commitments to Defence funding and how they relate to Government's defence priorities are matters for Government decision over time.
- The White Paper notes that further consideration of the appropriate balance of investment between the major components of Defence's budget – personnel, operating and capital - may also be required.
- It would not be appropriate for Defence to speculate on those future considerations.
- Defence will continue to drive deep reform and efficiencies to maximise resources for ADF capability.

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BACKGROUND

- The commitments of the 2013 Defence White Paper will require Defence to manage resource implications within its allocated budget over the long-term. The Government's priority White Paper commitments include:
 - Enhanced defence regional engagement;
 - Implementation of the agreed Australian Defence Force Posture Review recommendations;
 - Delivering and sustaining core ADF capabilities;
 - Retaining an ADF workforce of around 59,000 Permanent members over the next decade;
 - Implementing the Defence reform agenda, for example:
 - continuing to meet Strategic Reform Program cost reduction targets in more challenging fiscal circumstances while implementing lasting organisational and cultural reforms;
 - implementing procurement and capability reforms, including the Rizzo (support ship repair and maintenance) and Coles (Collins Class sustainment) reviews;
 - Supporting the Government's priority Australian defence industry capabilities, for example the commitment to a smoother profile for naval shipbuilding projects and to retaining the maritime sector skills necessary to deliver the Future Submarine.
 - Earliest opportunity replacement of supply ships HMAS *Sirius* and HMAS *Success*;
 - Early replacement of Armidale Class Patrol Boats;
 - Replacement of Pacific Patrol Boats (which will be gifted to participating nations in the region); and
 - Consideration of options to bring forward the Future Frigate project.
- The 2013 White Paper (paragraphs 1.17 and 10.4) states that while the Government is committed to maintaining the ADF at around 59,000 Permanent members, "...adjustments to the balance of investment in the capability, personnel and operating components of the Defence budget may be needed over time, as fiscal and strategic circumstances continue to evolve".

2013-14 Defence Budget

- In the 14 May budget announcement, the Government committed to continue to provide Defence with over \$100 billion in the forward estimate years (\$113.1 billion including \$1.4 billion for Operations) with the budget growing from \$25.3 billion in 2013-14 to \$30.7 billion in 2016-17. This compares to \$103.2 billion (including \$1.9 billion for operations) in the 2012-13 budget forward estimates.
- For general guidance for Defence planning purposes, the Government also announced that it would provide Defence with funding guidance of around \$220 billion over the subsequent six years from 2017-18 to 2022-23.

Media Response

- Criticism of the 2013 White Paper has largely focused on the relative brevity of Chapter Seven – Defence Budget and Finances. Commentators have speculated that the aspiration of the White Paper may not be matched with the necessary resources for its implementation. This was the main concern of Geoffrey Barker (*Australian Financial Review*, 7 May 2013), Paul Dibb (*The Australian*, 6 May 2013) and Mark Thomson (ASPI's blog *The Strategist*, 3 May 2013), who all supported the strategy of the White Paper but questioned whether sufficient resources would be made available to fund it.
- Paul Dibb wrote "it is strong on strategy but weak on money...it will be difficult to keep the ADF at the same size, acquire new weapons, and maintain increasingly expensive old equipment". Geoffrey Barker speculated that the Government was hoping funds would be released for capital equipment as personnel and operating costs decline with the draw down of major operations, and quoted White Paper paragraph 1.17 in support of this argument: "...choices will be required over time about the balance of investment between our current force and our core capabilities for the future. In addition...further consideration of the appropriate balance of investment between the major components of Defence's budget – personnel, operating and capital – may also be required".
- John Garnaut in the Sydney Morning Herald on 10 May 2013 wrote "the new white paper has removed the wording that caused such a strong Chinese reaction before. It "welcomes and encourages China's peaceful rise" and shows "respect" for the relationship, said Foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying. China hoped it marked a "turning point" in Australian attitudes."
- The Opposition defence spokesman, Senator the Hon David Johnston, issued a media release on the White Paper on 6 May 2013 in which he stated "...just like the 2009 version, out of 150-odd pages there is, once again, just a page and a half of discussion about funding...Chapter 7 is titled "Defence Budget and Finances" yet there is not one dollar figure listed, for a document that boldly talks of new ships, new submarines and new aircraft".
- Nicholas Stuart in *The Canberra Times* on 7 May 2013 argued the "critical flaw" in the White Paper was its lack of detail on defence funding and that it "...suggests strategic need comes second to economic necessity. Its fundamentals are utterly wrong".
- **2013-14 Budget:** There has been a generally positive reaction to Defence spending in the Federal Budget. Ian McPhedran (News Ltd) wrote spending will increase by more than \$5.4 billion between now and 2016. Brendan Nicholson (*The Australian*, 15 May 2013) noted funding is up to around 1.6 per cent of GDP (compared with 1.56 per cent last year) and is set to increase 2-3 per cent annually over the next three years, although it will take until at least 2023 to reach the aspirational target of 2 per cent of GDP. Christopher Joye (*Australian Financial Review*, 15 May 2013) was the most critical immediately following Budget release, arguing that the budget showed Australia was still not taking defence seriously and was free-riding off the United States.