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**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 September 2008 8:57  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 1. Strategy/International [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: I see no reason why the land of Oz needs to waste its finances maintaining, let alone increasing, defence spending. Defence strategy should commence with the question: who are we possibly trying to defend ourselves against. To the south we have Tasmania, the east NZ, the west nothing. Clearly, our only potential threats could feasibly come from the north. Papua New Guinea is clearly incapable of mounting a threat, and anyone who knows much about Indonesia would be aware it is probably even less of a threat. I am familiar with Indonesian history and have traveled throughout the archipelago. Like it or not, the entire focus of the Indonesian army is on to control of Indonesia, ie. suppressing independence movements and maintaining the current national configuration. Indonesia has immense natural resource reserves and some of the most fertile soils in the world. It has never at any time expressed any notional interest in leap-frogging Papua to attack Australia. It has no cultural or ideological reason to do so. It maintains minuscule naval and air capacities, which would be both vital if it were to mount aggressive action in the direction of Australia. China, in a similar vein, would need to leap-frog half of Asia and Indonesia and launch the equivalent of WWII, essentially to gain cheaper coal - which is about the only benefit I can think it could possibly gain. Even if that were oddly considered a long-term concern, there is a far greater prospect that essential climate change carbon reductions will negate the long-term value and usability of that resource.

Sadly, the only reason Australia needs to expend its finances on military hardware is to support its ongoing involvement in cold war treaties and its meddling in other distant conflicts. Most of the conflicts this country has engaged itself in have had nothing whatsoever to do with the defence of Australia.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website