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**Sent:** Monday, 11 August 2008 10:39  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 1. Strategy/International [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: Keith A. Hancock

Submission: The reality of international politics is that without a viable Defence Force and the willingness to use it judiciously, Australia has no influence in international affairs.  
The so-called 'punching above our weight' is a media illusion. It should be consigned to the 'Lucky country' waste bin.  
Our commitments to the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns have been tokenism and show a lack of resolve of all Federal governments for the past 30 years.  
We must not delude ourselves that the United Nations will or can resolve conflict anywhere. The UN record of failure is there for all to see.  
Strategically, the US alliance is critical to our future survival but we must be equipped and willing to accept the burden of conflict resolution without having to rely on others.  
Independence and self reliance must be our aim and we owe it to our allies to be capable of independent judgement and to back our words with proper actions.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

I agree to my submission being quoted in the Community Consultation Report