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**Sent:** Monday, 11 August 2008 11:59  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 2. Navy/Sea Power [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: Keith A. Hancock

Submission: The history of our nation is dotted with pious statements about the need to protect our island continent and our sea lanes of trade. In my view Australia has never had the capacity to protect our nation by control of the sea.

We need to change the way we think about ships.

1. We must build our own ships, merchant marine and Naval, and our contracts should be for the design and building of ships that meet our identified requirements for the foreseeable future.

The AWD contract is a case in point. Instead of a contract for 3 ships over ten years (say) it should be a contract for an evolving design and build of ten ships over 30 years. (say) We should combine the talents and skills of our shipbuilding companies and produce our own designs instead of having to adapt the designs of others. The Littoral Combat Ship design is a case in point where the US Navy is trialling an Australian design and we're not! When was the Spanish Navy involved in a war at sea?. How do they know their designs are suitable in combat? Our submarines were designed by a Swedish company whose ships have never fought in a war! It took Australian ideas and American know how to correct all the deficiencies of that design.

It might take a generation to develop the skills and talent necessary to achieve our goals, but let's start now.

Our first task should be to design an aircraft carrier. Without that capacity we will not be able to exert strategic influence and coupled with the F35 project, it is now possible to obtain STOVL aircraft to replace the Harrier.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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