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**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 5. Other Defence Capabilities [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: Zak Dragic  
Organisation: Indigenous Development Group

Submission: The Australian Government has for sometime (since World War II) underestimated the value of Indigenous engagement and participation in national security, defence and border protection across remote areas of northern Australia. With exception to specific successes such as ACAAP and the Regional Force Surveillance Units (RFSU's), the engagement of Indigenous peoples and communities across remote area Australia for both local, regional and strategic defence and border protection has been limited, at times passive and often unconnected to civilian efforts for capacity building and national security ( i.e Customs and Sea Rangers).

If natural resources around the world continue to diminish due to climate change, the protection of northern Australia (by the ADF) will be critically dependent on the Indigenous populations (i.e their knowledge, human capital etc) and Indigenous communities (with their remote area infrastructure etc.) located across remote areas of the north. The Canadian Defence Force is experiencing similar challenges with the melting of the arctic and opening of sea passage routes attracting foreign military incursions and challenges to their sovereignty (offset to some degree by Inuit sovereignty patrols, namely 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group).

The ADF must holistically and comprehensively assess its position in respect to the long term and strategic engagement of Indigenous peoples and communities for enhanced defence, border protection and national security efforts and ensure the Defence White Paper takes into consideration the vital contribution indigenous peoples and communities can make in the defence of Australia.

Currently the Indigenous Development Group, a Canberra and Alice Springs based company has begun a comprehensive project focusing on Indigenous engagement in defence and border protection in Australia since WW2. The Jandamarra Way Project exclusively addresses Indigenous engagement issues in defence, border protection and national security in both Australia and Canada, with a particular focus on remote areas of both countries. Further, but limited, public information can be found at:  
[www.jandamarra.com](http://www.jandamarra.com)

We would like to thank the DOD for this opportunity to make a submission.

Indigenous Development Group  
[www.indigenous.com.au](http://www.indigenous.com.au)

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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