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Submission: There has been recent recognition of the importance of the maritime trade in which Australia engages and our reliance on its continuity for our economic well being.

However the increasing number of submarine forces being acquired by regional states has also been noted, and the possible threat of interference with trade shipping from such forces as well as more conventional threats such as surface and air forces and unconventional threats such as piracy and terrorist attacks.

Australia has responsibility for an enormous area of exclusive economic zones and continental shelf extensions yet is limited in its ability to gather scientific and commercially important information and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance [ISR] information from within this massive water body and on and under the sea bed.

The solution to this lack of information is the effective exploitation of signals and other information that is generated from within the water body and seabed and thus to better understand what is happening and to apply appropriate responses.

One such capability being proposed is the Australian Centre for Oceanic Signal Processing to be located near Perth where it has unparalleled access to the vast Indian Ocean, and is collocated with Australia's greatest focus of underwater resource exploration and exploitation and the Australian Defence Force submarines forces.

The DWP consultation team may consider that such an initiative has the potential to improve Australia's capability for ISR in oceanic regions and at the same time contribute to improvements in anti-submarine warfare [ASW] capabilities.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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