
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2008 14:50
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 12. Funding for Defence [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: 3% of GDP is I believe the level of the Defence Budget agreed between the Howard and Rudd Governments as an objective to be maintained for some years into the future.

If that is correct then the budget provision is inadequate and is less than the percentages allocated by our allies and our potential enemies.

Somewhere in the 5-6% range of GDP is considered by knowledgeable people to be a useful minimum.

Apart from the rapidly escalating cost of complicated technology which is part and parcel of modern Defence requirements, the capacity to retain Service personnel will become a critical priority.

To retain submarine crews in competition with (say) the mining industries the remuneration rate for submariners will have to double (at least) very soon. There are many similar comparisons. Another field with which I have personal experience is the civil airlines. It is not unusual for Air Force pilots to double their income by joining a civil airline. The cost of loss to the Defence budget is incalculable. The first priority of government is to ensure the safety of its citizens and the State. Everything else follows that.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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