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**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 September 2008 23:58  
**To:** White Paper  
**Subject:** WWW Submission: 13. Miscellaneous [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Name: Angela Burrows

Submission: Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to 'generating ideas and expanding public debate about Defence and security that is so essential to the White Paper process.' It is encouraging that the government recognises the need to hear the concerns of the whole community on these important matters rather than being guided solely by those with military involvement.

In Australia there is a growing movement against war and strong support for developing creative, peaceful, nonviolent approaches to conflict as evidenced by the unprecedented outpouring of people into the streets protesting against the invasion of Iraq in March 2003 and ongoing opposition to Australian involvement in American wars far away from Australian shores.

Australia's security in the 21st Century rests on pursuing a genuinely defensive, non-offensive, non-provocative defence stance. The Australian Government foreign policy must commit to friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all countries, particularly with non-aligned and independent nations. This must be combined with an independent and non-aligned defence policy which should be efficient, affordable and serve both the defence needs of our country and the need for peace and stability in our region.

Perhaps the most serious security threat is Climate change which will create conflict over dwindling resources. All aspects of warfare preparation, arms manufacture and combat are environmentally dangerous with huge greenhouse burdens. Addressing climate change must have top priority.

Australia should abandon its current aggressive "defence" philosophy; the use of military strength for economic leverage; the pursuit of advanced technology with reliance on the United States for systems and logistics support; and promotion of the arms trade. This path consumes scarce public resources, undermines security and provokes conflict.

Security cannot be enforced by ever more sophisticated weapons. It is increasingly clear that real and enduring security comes with jobs, steady food supplies, homes, clean water, warmth, education and health care, democracy human rights and development of strong communities.

With continuing growth in technology of warfare the arms race, international militarisation and defence spending is again accelerating. Australia should not be lured down this never ending and counterproductive pathway, Australia should focus on more proactive peace-building initiatives.

Rather than increasing military spending at the proposed rate of 3% pa this money should be allocated to address the causes of social disadvantage, political injustice and environmental degradation, to develop different relationships with regional states, reassess the weapons systems required to satisfy our security interests and to develop conversion programs as well as to increase aid to our Asia-Pacific neighbours and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The recent speech by Kevin Rudd committing further funds to purchase new submarines is not only ill timed, coming in the middle of the defence white paper consultations, but is likely to cause tension with our neighbours and lead to an increasing regional arms race.

I therefore make the following suggestions:

1. Australia should develop a department or ministry of peace and allocate funds

specifically to research and develop peaceful and nonviolent conflict resolution strategies and policies.

2. Australia should examine developing a National Nonviolent Peace Service.
3. Peace studies and nonviolent methods of conflict resolution should be included in school curricula and incorporated at all levels of Australian society.
4. Australia should not possess weapons systems or military strategies to threaten the territory of other states.
5. Any ADF overseas deployment must require Federal Parliamentary endorsement. There should be no overseas deployments of Australian armed forces unless under the control of the United Nations.
6. Australia must uphold the international laws of war, including the UN Charter, the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions.
7. Australia must ensure that torture techniques are not used by Australian personnel and refuse to be allied with any country that uses and/or condones torture.
8. The Australian Government should support efforts to achieve total prohibition of the production and possession of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. The recent announcement by Prime Minister Rudd of a new Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is a welcome beginning. The Australian Government should continue to work for a treaty which would prohibit the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat and use of nuclear weapons, work with the existing nuclear weapons states to immediately stop upgrading, modernising and testing new nuclear weapons, demand that all nuclear weapons be taken off high alert, and insist that every nuclear weapon state pledge never to use nuclear weapons first.
9. The Australian Government should work for the establishment of nuclear-free zones, in particular Northeast Asian (including de-nuclearisation of the Korean peninsula) and Southeast Asian nuclear-free zones.
10. Australia should reduce dependence on the US alliance, cease joint military exercises, remove the US military bases from our soil, and develop confidence building processes in our region. Foreign warships and military aircraft should no longer call at Australian ports, airfields or transit through Australian territorial space.
11. The government should withdraw from US missile defence programs and strictly control all research, testing and development with application to any components of space weapons.
12. Australian Governments should not subsidise or otherwise support a local arms export trade. The hosting of international arms fairs should be banned.
13. Australia should not be developing its own weapons and military hardware and software production capabilities. Imaginative programs for conversion of military bases and production facilities should be introduced to create new jobs and produce socially useful and environmentally friendly products.
14. The supply of military equipment, military training programs and military exercises with repressive regimes in the region should be ended. The government should end its efforts to encourage and expand arms transfers.
15. Australia should support the ban on cluster munitions, continue its opposition to landmines and its work to dismantle minefields.
16. A primary role of the Australian Defence Force should be to provide an effective natural catastrophe relief response.
17. Working and training conditions for ADF personnel should be of a high standard. The ADF justice system should be improved and measures taken to reduce discriminatory practices. Personnel should be allowed to conscientiously object to particular deployments.
18. Health care and rehabilitation of military personnel, especially after deployment in war zones, should be accorded the highest priority recognising that such deployment frequently leads to devastating post traumatic stress. All Military

personnel and their families must be given high levels of ongoing support.

19. Climate change initiatives should be included in all aspects of defence planning.

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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