



AUSTRALIA – UNITED STATES JOINT STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND HERITAGE PRINCIPLES FOR COMBINED ACTIVITIES

The Alliance relationship between Australia and the United States is an expression of desire by both nations to work in close partnership and to support peace and security, both globally and in the Asia-Pacific region. The Alliance provides the means by which both nations can build and deploy defence capabilities that enable deterrence and, as necessary, defeat of threats to Australian and United States security interests. Successful security cooperation within the framework of the Alliance, both now and into the future, rests on the foundation of high levels of interoperability between the Australian Defence Force and the United States armed forces.

Australia and the United States recognise that the achievement of Alliance objectives is dependent upon well-trained armed forces. The quality of military training is reliant upon the quality of training areas. To this end diverse, quality, natural training environments are a capability enabler. Australia and the United States recognise that it is in their direct interest to manage and use training areas sustainably to meet the capability requirements of Australian Defence Force and the United States armed forces both today and in the future.

- Australia and the United States will strive to protect the environment, conserve biodiversity and protect and conserve heritage for the benefit of current and future generations;
- Australia and the United States will strive to integrate ecologically sustainable development principles into the planning, implementation and concluding stages of activities;
- Australia and the United States will strive to ensure that all personnel understand their environmental and heritage obligations and responsibilities and have the ability to meet those obligations and responsibilities;
- Australia and the United States will meet relevant obligations under their respective environmental and heritage legislation and policies and International Conventions, to which their governments are party ;
- Australia and the United States are committed to a “continual improvement” approach to their activities supported by appropriate quality assurance processes, consistent with an Environmental Management System;
- Australia and the United States will consider the impact of activities on neighbouring landowners and communities and take all reasonable and practicable measures to minimize adverse impacts;
- Australia and the United States will strive to promote a cooperative approach to the protection and management of our environment and heritage by involving, where appropriate, relevant stakeholders; and

- Australia and the United States will consider environmental impacts at the earliest stage of planning activities as an integrated element of risk assessment and will strive to develop and implement measures to mitigate such impacts.

A. G. Houston

A.G. Houston
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force
Australia

18 November 2005

W. J. Fallon

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18 November 2005

