

# Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies Australia Limited

*Promoting national security awareness*

**Patron:** His Excellency, General The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC (Ret'd),  
Governor-General of Australia

**National President and Board Chair:**  
Rear Admiral Simon Cullen, AM, CSC, RAN (Ret'd)

**Deputy National President and Deputy Board Chair:** Mr Neil James

**Company Secretary:** Air Commodore Peter McDermott, AM, CSC (Ret'd)

## National President's Column:

As the new National President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with you what I think has been a remarkable transformation in the national organisation that we once knew as the Royal United Services Institute of Australia (RUSI-A).



After many years of discussion on the need to modernise RUSI-A to remain relevant to the world in which we now live, the seven constituent bodies (NSW, VIC, QLD, WA, SA, TAS and the ACT) agreed earlier this year to reform their national body.

It was further agreed that a new company would be established, known as the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies – Australia Limited (RUSIDSS-A), with a new Constitution. The members of this new company are the seven constituent bodies, represented by their presidents.

The company recently held its first Annual General Meeting and an independent Board was elected and a reform agenda broadly agreed. I was honoured to be elected as the first Chair of that Board.

It is important to note that New South Wales and the other six constituent bodies will continue to run their own programme of activities as agreed by their Councils. However, over time it is hoped that there will be a strengthening of the national body, which in turn will be in a better position to support the work of the constituent bodies.

As we move forward, we will seek to strengthen our relationship with the Department of Defence and other important organisations, so that we are better positioned to promote an improved understanding of defence and national security issues across Australia.

Our name change is specifically designed to reflect the enhanced role we wish to play in educating and informing the Australian public, and I am pleased that other constituent bodies, including New South Wales, are following suit.

I firmly believe that this is an exciting time for RUSIDSS-A and the new Board is keen to bed down the new governance arrangements and set the company on a path to future success. We are using the national website [www.rusi.org.au](http://www.rusi.org.au) to promote the organisation's activities nation-wide and I strongly encourage its use.

I hope that members in New South Wales and more broadly across Australia will embrace this change as we seek to ensure the organisation remains relevant, useful and interesting, but at the same time more attractive to a younger audience and sponsors.

**Simon Cullen**