

National President's Column

Welcome to the third issue of *United Service* in 2022 that contains some very interesting papers on the Australian Army's enhanced land warfare capability, the significance of the Army aviation capability upgrade and progress in implementation of the AUKUS agreement. Please enjoy the read.



In the National President's column to the second issue of *United Service* in 2022, I stated that my vision is that RUSI, consisting of the National body (RUSI-A) and State and Territory RUSIs, should be an independent, respected think tank that provides recognised value to its members and identified stakeholders in the defence and national security space, and is financially secure.

Readers may be aware that prior to the recent Federal election, the Labor Party undertook to commission a Defence Posture Review to look at how the Australian military is positioned and enabled to operate in our region as the security environment requires.

Instead, the new Federal Government, probably because of briefings on the deteriorating geostrategic situation facing Australia, announced on 3 August 2022 that it had commissioned a **Defence Strategic Review** to "examine force structure, force posture and preparedness, and investment prioritisation, to ensure Defence has the right capabilities to meet our growing strategic needs". The government specified that the **focus of the review is to be on achieving self-reliance in the defence of Australia and its neighbourhood.**

The Hon Professor Stephen Smith, previous Minister of Defence and Sir Angus Houston, former Chief of the Defence Force have been appointed to conduct the review. The review is to be finalised by March 2023.

The Department of Defence has invited interested parties to contribute to the consideration of the Defence Strategic Review, with all submissions to be lodged by **30 October 2022.**

The matter of making a submission to the Defence Strategic Review was considered recently by the RUSI-A Board where it was agreed that RUSI, as the oldest and respected defence think tank in Australia, should prepare a submission for consideration as part of the Defence Strategic Review.

I would like to give all our members and readers an opportunity to provide input into a submission to be made to the Defence Strategic Review. So, if you have a considered view on what needs to be done to achieve self-reliance in the defence of Australia and its neighbourhood, please email me your view/comment/ argument/submission to:

president@rusi.org.au

Note time is of the essence, so please do not delay.

**Paul Irving AM, PSM, RFD
National President**