
Sent: Saturday, 27 September 2008 12:49
To: White Paper
Subject: WWW Submission: 2. Navy/Sea Power [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Submission: Seaborne Basing of ADF components is needed for a national strategy that includes the capability for force projection within the archipelagic and island states adjacent to Australia.

This has been well illustrated in the UN-sanctioned intervention in East Timor in 1999 when the ability to sustain the forces ashore by air and high-speed ship from Darwin was only just achievable in an unopposed, benign military setting. Such best-case conditions must never be assumed as a basis for capability development and operational planning

The acquisition of the LHD ships will do much to address this requirement and provide a guaranteed one ship at least as a comprehensive multi-role sea-base for the movements and sustainment of troops and other ADF and humanitarian people and freight in a flexible and responsive manner, while maintaining presence in international waters.

However this is not the whole story. There must also be a means to take up by charter or other agreement commercial ships from trade and other roles to be employed in various ways to supplement the capabilities of purpose built amphibious and sea-based support ships These additional ships should include ferries, container ships roll-on, roll-off ships, tankers, bulk carriers and general freight shipping. Smaller ships such as trawlers may be needed to supplement operational survey and mine clearance forces

Finally there will be casualties and while the medical facilities of the LHD are impressive they will be inadequate for large scale disasters so conversion of cruise ships to hospital ships must also be considered

I agree to my submission being published on the Defence website

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