



Labor's Flagged National and Homeland Security Principles, Policies and Initiatives

This *National Security Practice Note* provides a summary of the Australian Labor Party's national and homeland security principles, policies and initiatives to date.

The paper draws on documents from and addresses by the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers to identify probable national security policy and initiatives.

This paper does not represent Labor policy nor advocate Labor policy. It is part of the Centre's *2007 Election Project* (see page 2). Following publications will update both Labor and Coalition national security policies and initiatives.

The flagged changes to national and domestic security by the Australian Labor Party will have a significant impact on both the future direction of national security policy, and the structure and function of a number of Australian Government agencies. National security issues will be given a high priority under Labor and safeguarding Australia's national security is one of the 7 core elements of the Leader of the Opposition's plans for Australia's future.¹

This paper was prepared with the assistance of the Centre's Research Associates.

Key principles and positions informing Labor's national security decisions

There are a series of principles which inform Labor's national security decisions. Many of these have been formally articulated in speeches and statements,

¹ The other core elements are an education revolution, reforming Australia's nation's health and hospitals system, decisive action on climate change and water, getting the balance right in Australian workplaces, tackling the housing affordability crisis, and keeping the economy strong by building our economic infrastructure and making sure the economy also delivers for working families.

while others have been implied. Below are the key enunciated principles categorised into groups. The vast majority are statements from addresses and documents, although some had to be reworded for clarity.

Overarching principles

- The first and fundamental responsibility of any Australian government is to provide for the security and safety of the Australian people, the defence of the country and the protection of the nation's interests abroad.
- Australia now confronts a more complex threat environment than at any time in the nation's history.
- The threats to national security have broadened from state and non-state actors applying military, asymmetric, diplomatic and trade pressure to threats to Australia's energy security, health security, resource security and environmental security. Specifically they include climate change, global demography, cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, pandemics, and resource depletion.
- The foundation of good national security policy is careful alignment of strategic objectives, capability priorities and funding commitments, and stringent management.
- Spending on national security is to be effective and efficient, and targeted at the future strategic environment.

International security principles

- Australia's alliance with the United States remains central to the nation's ability to advance our security policy interests.
- Australia needs a stable, global, multilateral order because this enhances the nation's wider security and economic interests.
- A positive security environment in Australia's neighbourhood is a key national security

requirement, which is a challenge as our immediate neighbourhood is characterised by many fragile and unstable states, economic under-development and frequent breakdowns in law and order.

Defence principles

- Defence needs to have capabilities able to meet a wide range of challenges with flexibility.
- Defence spending will be maintained, including a minimum annual 3% real growth.
- The principle of defence self-reliance is supported which means that the ADF must be structured to provide for the nation's own defence. However, the ADF also needs to be structured to operate further afield in partnership with allies and, when appropriate, in support of UN multilateral peacekeeping operations.
- Defence planning for Australia's future force structure needs to be mindful of relative regional capabilities. In technology, equipment and personnel, the ADF needs to continue to have the edge.
- The future ADF will need a force structure capable of anticipating and responding to multiple and possibly simultaneous security contingencies – both man-made and natural.
- Joint capabilities are the bedrock on which modern military operations are founded
- The creation of a Coastguard will not result in one less person or dollar being committed to the ADF.

Domestic security principles

- Domestic security arrangements need to deliver a whole-of-nation approach which includes Commonwealth, States, Territories, business, non-government organisations and the community.
- Australia needs tough laws to deal with terrorism. However, in responding to terrorism, government must not exploit public insecurity or undermine the very liberties we are seeking to protect. Below are the key principles when considering any anti-terrorism laws:
 - Special anti-terrorist laws that would not normally be adopted in a free and open society must be subject to a meaningful sunset clause.
 - The detention of any citizen for an extended period of time must be based only on sound intelligence of a credible threat and be authorised by a judge, not

a bureaucrat or politician.

- The operation of these laws should be as transparent as is possible including regular reporting to parliament of the application of anti-terrorism laws.
- Accountability of those involved in covert activities to well resourced oversight bodies such as the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security and the Parliamentary Committee on Security and Intelligence is essential.



About the AHSRC

The Australian Homeland Security Research Centre undertakes independent, evidence-based analysis of homeland security (the domestic dimensions of national security).

The Centre's vision is to be one of Australia's leading independent sources of research on domestic security policy and programs for the government, industry, the community and the media.

Many of the Centre's activities are run in partnership with other organisations which reflects its philosophy that collaboration is the key to ensuring optimal outcomes in national security.

The Centre is not aligned with any political party or funded by government grant. The Centre is fully self-supporting and is funded by its commissioned studies, events and sales of publications.

2007 Election Project

A major activity this year is the *2007 Election Project*. Highlights of this program to date include:

National Security Practice Note: Voters' guide to national security: Evaluation criteria

This publication provides voters with a framework to evaluate each political party's promised policies on national security. It did not provide a guide to each party's policies nor recommendations on which party would better handle national security – this is the domain of interest and advocacy groups.

Election Speech series

The Australian Homeland Security Research Centre in conjunction with the Australian Defence Business Review and Booz Allen Hamilton presents the 2007 National Security and Defence Election Series.

Speakers to date have included:

- The Hon Philip Ruddock MP, Attorney-General
- The Hon Arch Bevis MP, Shadow Minister - Homeland Security
- Mr Joel Fitzgibbon MP, Shadow Minister – Defence
- Mr Robert McClelland MP, Shadow Minister – Foreign Affairs

Labor's flagged national security initiatives

Below are Labor's flagged initiatives categorised into groups.

Overarching initiatives

- A true whole of nation approach to security is required which includes the Commonwealth, States, Territories, business and the community.

International security initiatives

- A Pacific Partnership for Development and Security will be created which is designed to rebuild the economic and social infrastructure of Melanesia.
- An Asia-Pacific Centre for Civil-Military Cooperation will be created which will draw together all elements of government, aid, policing and the military to train Australians for the complex task of peace-building and institution-building. Labor considers that these tasks are especially important to avoid 'revolving door' deployments where Australia re-commits its military as civil unrest is reignited by underlying economic, political and social pressures. It will also train students directly from the Pacific countries in leadership, administrative and technical skills. The objective will be on achieving self-reliance where Australia will no longer need to continually assist in stability and security
- A unit will be created that would coordinate Government policy for international post-conflict reconstruction.
- A contingent of Australian Federal Police officers would be deployed to Afghanistan to help eliminate the opium trade. These officers will assist the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan.

Defence initiatives

- A new Defence White Paper will be commissioned to ensure that the nation's expenditures produce the force structure needed for the future. Key features of a new Defence White Paper (which provide the core challenges to the nation's changing strategic environment for the next twenty years) would be:
 - Australia's rapidly and radically deteriorating strategic circumstances in the South West Pacific.
 - The long-term trajectory of militant

Islamism.

- The implications of unrestrained WMD proliferation across the wider/Asia Pacific region.
- Negotiations with the US and Iraqi administrations for a staged withdrawal of Australian combat forces from Iraq will commence. Current combat forces would remain in Iraq for the completion of what would be their current rotation plus one further six month rotation in consultation with the Americans and the Iraqis so that there can be appropriate time for any necessary adjustments on the ground. In addition, Australia would provide other forms of security, economic and humanitarian assistance to Iraq.
- Australia will continue its commitment to the deployment of Australian forces in Afghanistan.
- The Army will need additional infantry battalions, and to upgrade its cultural and linguistic capabilities as they relate to the South West Pacific, so as to be able to respond to the need for military forces in more than one country in the arc of instability.
- Air and naval forces, intelligence assets and special forces require priority development.

Domestic security initiatives

- A national security strategy will be developed.
- A major revision of the strategy for how Australia deals with the security challenge of extremism and fragile states in our region will be undertaken.
- A national security institute will be created which will provide an independent source of policy advice and confidential research, as well as providing a focal point for practitioner and academic research and analysis.
- 500 additional 'sworn' AFP officers would be employed.
- A Coastguard will be established and be made up of Border Protection Command, the Customs Maritime unit and vessels, and Coastwatch plus new vessels and personnel.
- The Office for National Security will be created headed by a National Security Advisor.
- The Department of Homeland Security will be created and will centralise security operational and policy groups and agencies.
- Only security cleared vessels crewed with sailors who have appropriate security clearances will be able to carry dangerous materials on coastal

- routes. In addition, Labor will ensure that all ships wanting to enter Australian ports provide satisfactory details of all cargo and crew at least 48 hours before arrival and that a significantly higher percentage of containers are x-rayed on arrival.
- The recommendations of the 'Wheeler' review will be expedited, and Labor will work with stakeholders to ensure:
 - in-line screening of all cargo on passenger flights at counter-terrorism, first response airports is completed;
 - upgrades to regional airport security are given priority, particularly those that have direct commercial passenger flights to major high security airports;
 - the expanded use of CCTV, including enhanced smart monitoring that complies with agreed minimum national standards; and
 - improved perimeter security.
 - Labor will work with industry, State, Territory and local government to ensure acceptable national standards for security are in place on all major urban transport systems. In particular, Labor will take the initiative in ensuring:
 - the design of carriages, buses, ferries, railway stations and terminals minimises the opportunity for explosive devices to be left and also reduces the lethal effect of any explosion which may occur;
 - a substantial increase in the availability of sniffer dogs to detect explosives and their regular use on major urban transport systems;
 - the creation of highly mobile flying squads of police, specially trained to operate in an urban transport environment; and
 - improved security and surveillance at depots and rail yards where vehicles, ferries and passenger carriages are held.
 - The role of the Inspector of Transport Security will be enhanced and become a full-time position to audit transport security measures and ensure suitable standards apply.
 - There is a need for expanded research in the field of bioterrorism to combat the use of viruses and other forms of infectious disease that may be a threat. In addition, Labor will work closely with other nations in our region to control the threat of

bioterrorism and pandemics more generally.

- Labor, in cooperation with other tiers of government, utility providers and owners of critical infrastructure, will ensure appropriate safeguards are in place to limit threats and ensure rapid recovery from incidents.
- Emergency Management Australia will be resourced to ensure response and recovery from incidents minimise loss of life and damage to property.
- Labor will work with other levels of government to ensure local resources are capable of addressing anticipated threats. Particular attention will be given to interoperability across agencies and jurisdictions.

Details of the Department of Homeland Security

Labor has identified that the key responsibilities of the Department of Homeland Security will include:

- Border Security
- Maritime security
- Aviation security
- Mass urban transport security
- Domestic Intelligence and surveillance
- Federal Policing
- Response to non-state terrorism
- Critical Infrastructure protection
- Response to and recovery from incidents
- Protecting against terrorist attacks;
- Fighting crime;
- Collection and dissemination of intelligence

Labor has identified that the Department of Homeland Security will include:

- Coastguard
- AFPPS
- ASIO
- Customs
- Transport Security
- Austrac
- Crimtrac
- Auscheck
- Australian Crime Commission
- EMA
- Protective Security Co-ordination Centre

The Australian Coastguard will be established under the DHS to tackle these problems in association with other agencies. The Australian Coastguard will

be responsible for the detection of and response to all incursions into Australian waters; for the enforcement of all Commonwealth laws as they relate to the maritime jurisdiction; for carrying out coastal surveillance and intelligence gathering operations; for coordinating maritime safety and search and rescue operations; and for coastal surveillance and protection against incursions in times of declared emergency and conflict. In addition to existing resources within Customs, the Coastguard will be equipped with new vessels and other platforms designed for their specific role and appropriately armed to undertake their important tasks. Coastguard personnel will be recruited to complement existing personnel engaged in these tasks.

The Coastguard will also have a volunteer civil reserve component to provide a localized search and rescue service.

Labor has identified that the Australian Coastguard may include:

- Border Protection Command
- Customs Maritime unit and vessels
- Coastwatch
- New vessels and personnel

Note

When Labor releases additional policy and initiatives in the lead up to the election, this paper will be modified to reflect these changes.