



PRESS RELEASE

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Security Warning: China's Military Poses a Major Challenge

China's rapid military expansion is posing a serious challenge to the security of Australia and its close allies. This is the key conclusion of a major study to be released in Canberra at 10.00am today.

"The scale, pace and nature of China's military expansion poses the most serious challenge to Australia, the United States and their allies and friends in the Western Pacific since the Second World War" said the report's author, Dr Ross Babbage.

The report states that Australia needs to refocus its defence and broader national security investments to produce much greater strategic leverage against a major power. Priority options include much closer security engagement with regional countries, stronger investment in cyber capabilities, the deployment of a fleet of nuclear powered submarines, investment in advanced strike aircraft and the development of next-generation special forces.

Dr Babbage said that: "Recent Chinese military developments, and those anticipated during the coming 20 years, challenge many of Australia's key security interests."

Dr Babbage is a former senior official from the Department of Defence and a senior adviser to the Minister for Defence during preparation of the 2009 Defence White Paper.

He concludes that Australia does not have the option of standing aloof from these developments. "Simply modernising Australia's current national security capabilities would be ineffective in balancing, offsetting and deterring the rising PLA and sustaining regional confidence" he argues.

Dr Babbage also says that the country's security would be greatly strengthened by the routine operation of selected United States military forces, especially surveillance, maritime and air units, from Australian facilities.

The report will be released at 10.00am today (Monday 7 February) at 'The Eye' Regatta Point, Barrine Drive, Parkes, ACT.

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