

By Great North News Services staff reporter

A new Defence White Paper was commissioned in February this year, "a vital planning document that will form the foundation of our future Defence capabilities", according to Defence Minister Fitzgibbon.

"We owe it to the Australian people to get this planning right. The White Paper will help the government make fully-informed and cost-effective decisions about the military capabilities we need to defend Australia and to promote our interests," he said.

A series of accompanying reviews (Companion Reviews) will be conducted across a range of defence areas to underpin the new White Paper. They will be a key input to developing defence business and budget priorities from now until 2030.

Deputy Secretary Strategy, Coordination and Governance in the Ministry of Defence, Mr Michael Pezzullo, will have prime responsibility of authorship. (See <http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper/> for further details)

The Australian MoD also has an extant Capability Plan covering the period 2006-2016 (this can be downloaded from <http://www.defence.gov.au/dmo/id/dcp/dcp.cfm>)

Further information about Australian defence can be found on the Defence web publications site (<http://www.defence.gov.au/header/publications.htm>)

The U K Defence Forum has previously published three papers on Australian defence strategy and industrial policy which are now in the public domain at http://www.ukdf.org.uk/online_library_grey.htm

- The Australian defence industrial strategy 1 Nov 1996
- Renewing defence : the Australian experience 1 Dec 1996
- Alternative defence procurement - the Australian model 1 Dec 1996