

# ADM

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE MAGAZINE

SERVING THE BUSINESS OF DEFENCE

## DEFENCE WEEK PREMIUM EDITION



The town of Eden burning, as seen from HMAS Adelaide.

DEFENCE

## SUPERPOWER LAUNCHES DIRECT ATTACK ON AUSTRALIA

It's the headline you never thought you'd read.  
But we should've seen it coming.

EWEN LEVICK | MELBOURNE

The first signs of trouble were similar to those 78 years ago, when Imperial Japan became the first foreign power to launch direct attacks on Australian soil. The steady gain of power in the South Pacific, eroding the defences of small island nations until it conquered them entirely. It was a violation of that basic foundation of Australian strategy – preventing non-aligned powers from gaining a foothold in our region – but this time, we were too slow to react.

This time, Australia was economically dependent on the encroaching superpower. That dependence blinded us. Warnings came time and again from

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our neighbours and from others outside government, but it all fell on deaf ears.

And so the superpower quietly eroded our defences. Politicians from both sides received donations from business types with murky ties, massive investments in infrastructure won influence and friends in the right places: all strings that were pulled to draw curtains over the threat, even as it grew and grew.

We even acknowledged the superpower's steady encroachment towards our territory, but we chose appeasement. We reminded ourselves that we had powerful friends who could do more than us, and would do more.

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**"OUR POLICY OF APPEASEMENT  
TOWARDS THE PLANET'S THIRD  
SUPERPOWER HAS BUILT A DEBT  
TO THE TRUTH"**

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Meanwhile, the money kept flowing. "The economy is more important," leaders said. "Australian jobs depend on it."

Appeasement weakened our strategic position. When war eventually broke out, we were taken entirely by surprise. The superpower mounted simultaneous assaults across the country, taking out power lines, disrupting telecommunications and cutting off major high-

ways. Entire towns were destroyed virtually overnight as thick smoke rose in great plumes, blanketing lost lives in ash.

The government mobilized the military, but the assault was so great that the ADF was forced to call on reserve troops for the first time in history. Industries and homes were wiped out, hospitals overwhelmed. The town of Eden, a major deep water port not far from Canberra, couldn't be defended. Warships evacuated thousands by sea as the assault cut off supply lines up and down the east coast.

Help came from allies, but it was too late. The death toll had already grown and kept growing as civilians were left alone to fight back against the assault.

Now imagine if this story were about China. There are enough similarities: the slow and steady growth of power, our dependence on powerful friends to take action, and the economic benefits of appeasement. Some would argue our leaders are blinded by naïve assumptions as they prioritise wealth over security.

But this isn't about China. It's about climate change.

Climate change is the world's third superpower. It is casting the future of our planet, steadily conquering small island states, opening new trade routes, reshaping economies, paralysing domestic politics, influencing voting patterns, shifting coastlines and sculpting Australia's fundamental strategic outlook.

Debating whether climate change is real is akin to arguing whether the Earth is round: reality and its consequences exist regardless. Debating whether Australia is too small to have a global effect is also redundant: Australian coal exports are set to contribute to 17 per cent of global emissions by 2030. That's the strategic equivalent of selling uranium to North Korea. It's the line from HBO's Chernobyl: the willingness to debate facts incurs a debt to the truth that must one day be paid.

The government is willing to spend \$200 billion in the largest recapitalisation of Australia's defence industry since WW2, fuelled by valid concerns about the rise of China. Indeed, if China or any other foreign power had inflicted the damage wrought on

Australia these last few months, the government would be willing to put the economy on a war footing to fight and win.

Yet it is unwilling to spend more than \$3.5 billion on equally valid concerns about the rise of climate change. That's roughly the cost of a single Attack class submarine. Remember, we're buying 12.

Chamberlain spoke of 'peace for our time' less than a year before the outbreak of war with Germany. PM Scott Morrison spoke of 'needless anxiety' just three months before unprecedented bushfires fuelled by a drier, warmer climate killed dozens of Australians, destroyed thousands of homes and turned an area the size of England into ash.

Our policy of appeasement towards the planet's third superpower has built a debt to the truth. How much are we willing to pay? ■

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## A BUSY YEAR AHEAD FOR RAAF KC-30AS

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**NIGEL PITTAWAY | MELBOURNE**

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**The RAAF's Airbus KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport fleet is set to have a busy year ahead, with activities including ongoing support to the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO), the deployment of Air Force fast jets across the Pacific in both directions and participation in exercises at home and overseas.**

The KC-30As are operated by No.33 Squadron at Amberley and the seventh and (to date) last aircraft entered service during the course of 2019. This final aircraft differs from the rest of the fleet in that it is fitted with a VIP interior in the forward half of the cabin, which enables it to perform the Government Transport Communications (GTC) role in addition to its existing Air to Air Refuelling (AAR) and Air Logistics Support (ALS) capability.

During 2019 the government re-committed a single KC-30A to the Middle East in support of Operation Okra, a tasking which first began with the deployment of RAAF Super Hornet Fighters to the region in 2014. In addition to their duties in the MEAO, 33 Sqn has continued supporting ADF deployments and exercises and towards the end of last year it also supported the airlift of firefighting personnel as part of bushfire relief efforts.

During these latter flights, the squadron conducted an 'elephant walk' of five aircraft at Amberley, to highlight the KC-30As capability and availability.

"Launching five KC-30As demonstrates a capacity to concurrently transport over one thousand passengers or ferry more than 40 Hornets across Australia," explained Group Captain Steve Pesce, then OC 86 Wing, following the event.

"Alternatively, five aircraft could position 1,800 kilometres from base and offload 250 tonnes of fuel to receivers over four hours.



Five KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport aircraft from No 33 Squadron on taxiway Alpha at RAAF Base Amberley.

Defence

“The capacity to project this magnitude of airpower at range has previously been beyond Air Force.”

And 2020 is already shaping up to be busier still, with the fleet now flying at a rate of around 5,000 hours per year. Late last year 33 Sqn supported the trans-Pacific delivery flights of seven RAAF F-35As and this year it will continue this work as aircraft roll off the production line in Fort Worth, Texas. This year, the squadron will also take F-35As back to the United States for exercise and bring home a number of RAAF EA-18G Growlers which have been deployed since late 2019.

**“THE CAPACITY TO PROJECT  
THIS MAGNITUDE OF AIRPOWER  
AT RANGE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN  
BEYOND AIR FORCE”**

There are also major domestic exercises, such as Pitch Black in July and August, for which the aircraft’s capabilities will be a key enabler. The RAAF is supporting partners and allies, including France, South Korea, Singapore and the NATO Multinational Multirole Tanker Transport Fleet (MMF) with the introduction of

their own aircraft, and this work will also continue throughout the year.

Finally, the squadron continues to support the manufacturer’s trials of new technology, including an Automatic Air to Air Refuelling (A3R) capability and will continue working through a number of receiver clearance trials in the US, including A-10s, B-2s, B-52s and F-15s.

A detailed report on the current status of the RAAF KC-30A fleet and technology likely to find its way into the aircraft will appear in the March issue of ADM. ■



# HMAS TOOWOOMBA HEADS FOR MIDDLE EAST AMID TENSIONS

EWEN LEVICK | MELBOURNE

**HMAS Toowoomba left Fleet Base West for a six-month deployment to the Middle East on January 13.**

**H**MAS Toowoomba will contribute to the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) and provide continued support to the 33-nation Combined Maritime Force (CMF) in the Middle East Region, focussing on countering terrorism, preventing piracy, encouraging regional co-operation and promoting a safe maritime environment in the region.

The IMSC is the Trump administration's effort to deter Iranian attacks on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, which began after the US unilaterally withdrew from a joint treaty limiting Iran's nuclear ambitions. The Strait is a key supply route for Australia's energy requirements.

The deployment comes amid tensions surrounding the assassination of Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in a US drone attack near Baghdad airport, widely regarded as the most powerful man in Iran after Ayatollah Khamenei. Iran retaliated with sign-posted missile attacks on bases in Iraq and confirmed it also accidentally shot down a Ukrainian airliner, killing 176 people and prompting protests in Iranian cities.



Able Seaman Boatswains Mate Josh Moore casts the berthing line as the ship departs.

DEFENCE

PM Scott Morrison has confirmed that Australian troops will remain in Iraq after assessing that the situation has stabilised, a view shared by Canadian PM Justin Trudeau in a phone call between the two leaders.

"The situation overnight has stabilised – that is a very relative term in the Middle East – and the cessation of those immediate hostilities that we saw yesterday, and the nature of the statement also issued by the President today, as well as the intelligence that we have, means that we are in a position to continue to undertake the mission that we have set for ourselves in the Middle East and we remain committed to that, as do our other partners," PM Morrison said.

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**AUSTRALIAN TROOPS WILL  
REMAIN IN IRAQ**

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**ADM Comment:** The assassination of Qassem Soleimani appears to be a significant tactical victory for the US: the removal of Iran's grand strategy architect at the cost of zero American lives, although that is now complicated by the downing of the Ukrainian airliner.

On a strategic level, however, the move could reinforce Iran's desire to attain nuclear weapons. Iranian leaders will likely contrast the gruesome fate of Soleimani with North Korea's Kim Jong-Un, who has won several face-to-face meetings with Donald Trump after acquiring nuclear warheads. Would Soleimani have been assassinated if Iran had nuclear weapons? ■

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## ANAO RELEASES REPORT INTO FUTURE SUB PROGRAM

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**EWEN LEVICK | MELBOURNE**

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**The ANAO has released a report into the Future Submarine program under Sea 1000, which will see the Commonwealth acquire 12 submarines to replace the Collins fleet over the coming decades.**

The auditor justified the need for the report by arguing that the decision to engage a 'strategic partner' for the program, France's Naval Group, rather than buy an off-the-shelf submarine has 'increased the risk of this acquisition'.

The ANAO found that whilst Defence had established formal arrangements that allow for 'effective' administration of the program, two design milestones were extended and that the program's success is dependent on the 'timely and cost-effective delivery' of such milestones. There is currently a nine-month delay in the design phase.



Delays to the Future Submarine program will require a life-of-type extension for the Collins submarines.

DEFENCE

Consequently, the ANAO argues, “Defence cannot demonstrate that its expenditure of \$396 million on design of the Future Submarine has been fully effective in achieving the program’s two major design milestones to date.

“Defence expenditure on design represents some 47 per cent of all program expenditure to 30 September 2019.”

**“DEFENCE CANNOT DEMONSTRATE  
THAT ITS EXPENDITURE OF  
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FUTURE SUBMARINE HAS BEEN  
FULLY EFFECTIVE”**

The delay means there will be a three year gap in Navy’s submarine capability, with Defence planning for a Collins life-of-type extension ‘at an early stage.’

The report notes that Defence has assessed the program to have a high level of risk and is implementing relevant mitigation strategies, such as the strategic partnership with Naval Group, that will prove crucial in the years ahead.

“Defence acknowledges the findings contained in the ANAO audit report, Future Submarines – Transition to Design,” Defence said in a statement.

“Importantly, the commencement of construction activities in Australia, and the delivery of the Future Submarines has not been delayed.” ■

#### MOST READ ONLINE AT [WWW.AUSTRALIANDEFENCE.COM.AU](http://WWW.AUSTRALIANDEFENCE.COM.AU)



1. [ADM’s Top 40 Defence Contractors 2019](#)
2. [Land 400 Phase 3 AIC roadshow to start in March](#)
3. [Is the ADF ready to ask difficult questions?](#)
4. [Northrop Grumman wins Growler upgrade contract](#)
5. [Relief efforts continue over weekend](#)

## AIR AFFAIRS PROVIDES CRUCIAL BUSHFIRE RECONNAISSANCE

**This year, firefighting agencies across the country are battling a dramatic increase in the severity and frequency of bushfires due to the impact of the ongoing drought and adverse forecast weather conditions.**

On any given day or night, high above the raging fires, a unique, high-tech “eye in the sky” keeps watch, working round the clock to provide critical fire intelligence imagery and mapping data to fire agencies.

This data provides an essential intelligence capability to assist incident management teams to plan and deploy tactical firefighting assets. So far this season Air Affairs aircraft have scanned equivalent to 50 per cent of the total area of Australia.

Air Affairs Australia has provided Airborne Bushfire Reconnaissance services throughout Australia since 1994. Since its first demonstrated capability in the summer of 1994-95, the service has been used extensively in this unique role.

Located in the Albatross Aviation Technology Park next to HMAS Albatross near Nowra with access to the airfield, the aircraft are able to take off at short notice.

Established as a crucial element in Bushfire intelligence gathering, Firescan captures line scan imagery of bushfire activity, delivered during both day and night-time flight operations, provides imaging of the ground, clearly defining active fire and burnt terrain through dense smoke.



A Firescan operator inside one of the Learjets during a mission.

AIR AFFAIRS AUSTRALIA



With many of these fast moving bushfires, the need for rapid wide-area fire intelligence is logistically critical in supporting ground crews. The service also allows for monitoring remote area bushfires. Images are transmitted directly from the aircraft via satellite to operation centres for near real-time utilisation.

"It is personally inspiring to see the significant efforts our crew and staff undertake every year to provide and deliver this important service in a challenging environment," Chris Sievers, Chief Executive Officer of Air Affairs Australia said. "We are proud to support our Firefighting Agency customers in

their critically important efforts to protect life and property. Firescan is an important part of our business, which we committed to 25 years ago with a vision of one day achieving a national and international service.

"The Air Affairs team was established using aerial bushfire surveillance experts which I am extremely proud of. We must now grow together with the fire agencies to meet evolving

environmental challenges, to make certain we continue to contribute to the community that relies so much on us. We are committed to work with governments, both state and federal, to contribute our part of an evolving national aerial firefighting fleet. ■

**"THE NEED FOR RAPID  
WIDE-AREA FIRE INTELLIGENCE  
IS LOGISTICALLY CRITICAL IN  
SUPPORTING GROUND CREWS"**

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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## ADM EVENTS

More detail on **ADM** Events can be found on our dedicated website:

- **ADM 2020 Congress** – 19 February 2020

## NSW DEFENCE INNOVATION NETWORK'S REGIONAL ROAD SHOW

**Date:** Various

**Location:** Various

**Website:** [defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din-regional-road-show-2019-20](https://defenceinnovationnetwork.com/din-regional-road-show-2019-20)

NSW Defence Innovation Network and AIDN will be undertaking a series of small business focused regional forums across NSW. Register to attend and hear about the pro-grams, grants, opportunities and services the NSW Defence Innovation Network (DIN) provides to the small business community across NSW. We encourage small businesses to engage with us and participate in opportunities across our networks, including DIN's seven partner universities, as well as with other state and federal agencies.

## DEFENCE EXPORT CONTROL COURSE (PERTH)

**Date** 11 February 2020

**Location** 4 McGrath Road, Henderson.

**Website** [www.stickytickets.com.au/UGCHD](http://www.stickytickets.com.au/UGCHD)

Join us for a 1-day face-to-face training course to de-mystify the complex area of Export Control regulations. The course is suitable for SME's and will address ITAR, EAR and DEC, advice on employing dual and third country nationals, licensing requirements, and much more.

## DEFENCE EXPORT CONTROL COURSE (ADELAIDE)

**Date** 13 February 2020

**Location** 19 Young Street, Adelaide

**Website** [www.stickytickets.com.au/UGCHD](http://www.stickytickets.com.au/UGCHD)

Join us for a 1-day face-to-face training course to de-mystify the complex area of Export Control regulations. The course is suitable for SME's and will address ITAR, EAR and DEC, advice on employing dual and third country nationals, licensing requirements, and much more.

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## AIDN NATIONAL DEFENCE INDUSTRY GALA DINNER 2020

**Date** 19 February 2020

**Location** QT Hotel Ballroom

**Website** [consec.eventsair.com/aidn-2020/dinner/Site/Register](https://consec.eventsair.com/aidn-2020/dinner/Site/Register)

AIDN National invite you to attend a defence industry gala event not to be missed. The dinner will include pre dinner drinks and canapes on arrival followed by a gourmet two course dinner served with premium beverages. Guests will enjoy an evening of networking, socialising and fun which includes a VIP guest speaker, presentation of the AIDN National Young Achiever Award and Silent Auction with all proceeds donated to Legacy

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## CERTIFICATE IV IN RESPONDING TO ORGANISATIONAL COMPLEXITY | ADELAIDE

**Date** 19-21 February, 2020

**Location** to be confirmed

**Website** [iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-adelaide-2020](https://iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-adelaide-2020)

Developed and offered exclusively by ICCPM (RTO number 41394), the Certificate IV in Responding to Organisational Complexity helps project leaders develop the skills and attributes they need to respond to complexity, as defined in the Complex Project Manager Competency Standards. This is a highly interactive course which introduces project leaders to useful tools and methodologies with a strong focus on the practical application of concepts to real-world situations.

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## CERTIFICATE IV IN RESPONDING TO ORGANISATIONAL COMPLEXITY | CANBERRA

**Date** 24-26 March, 2020

**Location** to be confirmed

**Website** [iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-canberra-2020](https://iccpm.com/events/certificate-iv-canberra-2020)

Developed and offered exclusively by ICCPM (RTO number 41394), the Certificate IV in Responding to Organisational Complexity helps project leaders develop the skills and attributes they need to respond to complexity, as defined in the Complex Project Manager Competency Standards. This is a highly interactive course which introduces project leaders to useful tools and methodologies with a strong focus on the practical application of concepts to real-world situations.

## WILLIAMS FOUNDATION SEMINAR: NEXT-GEN AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

**Date** 26 March 2020

**Location:** National Gallery of Australia

**Website** [www.williamsfoundation.org.au](http://www.williamsfoundation.org.au)

Building upon the existing foundations of ADF capability, the aim of the March seminar is to explore the force multiplying capability and increasingly complex requirements associated with unmanned systems. From its origins at the platform level, the opportunities and potential of increased autonomy across the enterprise are now expected to fundamentally transform Joint and Coalition operations.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC SECURITY INNOVATION SUMMIT

**Date** 16-17 April, 2020

**Location** Queenstown, NZ

**Website** [www.apsisummit.com/page/apsi-summit-2020](http://www.apsisummit.com/page/apsi-summit-2020)

The theme of this year's APSI summit, to be held in Queenstown on the South Island, is Strengthening Security Resiliency Through Partnerships and Alliances.

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## AUSCERT 2020

**Date:** 02-05 June 2020

**Location:** The Star, Gold Coast

**Website:** [www.auscert.org.au/giveaway](http://www.auscert.org.au/giveaway)

The AusCERT Conference is the oldest information security conference in Australia. Each year, we attract in the vicinity of 800 participants and approximately 50 sponsors. AusCERT is hosting more than 50 speakers at AusCERT2020, as well as an array of tutorials, workshops, networking events & much more.

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## ROTORTECH 2020

**Date** 16-18 June 2020

**Location** Royal International Convention Centre, Brisbane

**Website** [www.rotortech.com.au](http://www.rotortech.com.au)

RotorTech 2020 is the region's premier helicopter and unmanned flight systems showcase and forum, bringing together operators, manufacturers, suppliers, regulators and government across the Indo-Asia-Pacific. With a comprehensive three-day free industry conference program, RotorTech 2020 will also feature manufacturers technical workshops and an industry exhibition showcasing more than 100 helicopter and unmanned flight related companies.

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## 43RD COSPAR SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY

**Date** 15 – 22 August 2020

**Location** International Convention Centre Sydney

**Website** [www.cospar2020.org](http://www.cospar2020.org)

The Australian space research community enthusiastically extends the invitation to you, to meet with us for COSPAR 2020, and in so doing to forge the friendships and opportunities that will connect space research for global impact. The 2020 Assembly will combine the latest in space research findings with activities designed to enrich the global space research community – including helping equip our future leaders, and workshopping with space industry – and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

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## PROJECT AND PROGRAM MANAGEMENT SYMPOSIUM 2020

**Date** 25-26 August 2020

**Location** Canberra Rex Hotel

**Website** [www.pgcsymposium.org.au](http://www.pgcsymposium.org.au)

PGCS 2020 is designed to help project and program managers, and their sponsors and senior managers, develop the skills and understanding needed to deliver projects success in the next decade. Now in its 8th year, PGCS 2020 will focus on ways to build the foundations needed to create project and program success.

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## LAND FORCES 2020

**Date** 01-03 September 2020

**Location** Brisbane Convention Centre

**Website** [www.landforces.com.au](http://www.landforces.com.au)

The biennial LAND FORCES exposition is an international industry event to showcase equipment, technology and services for the armies of Australia and the Indo-Asia-Pacific. The Land Forces 2020 team is now setting about ensuring the event will achieve its goals of providing an effective platform for the exchange of ideas on key land forces issues and of taking Australian industry to the world

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**2021**

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## AVALON 2021

**Date** 23 – 28 February 2021

**Location** Avalon Airport

The Australian International Airshow and Aerospace & Defence Exposition is one of Asia-Pacific's most prestigious aviation and aerospace events and the most comprehensive aviation, aerospace and defence exposition in the southern hemisphere. Avalon hosts multiple concurrent conferences and expo streams, across the spectrum of Defence, Airlines, Business and General Aviation, Sport and Recreational Aviation, Airports, MRO, Space, Unmanned Systems, Air Safety and Ground Equipment. ■