

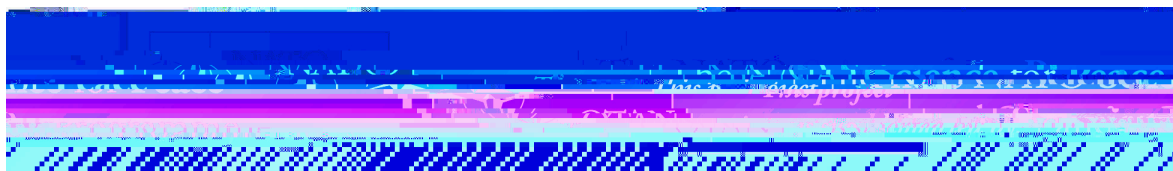
# NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA: PRAGMATIC OPTIMISATION OR RADICAL RENEWAL? ALTERNATIVE FUTURES FOR THE STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP

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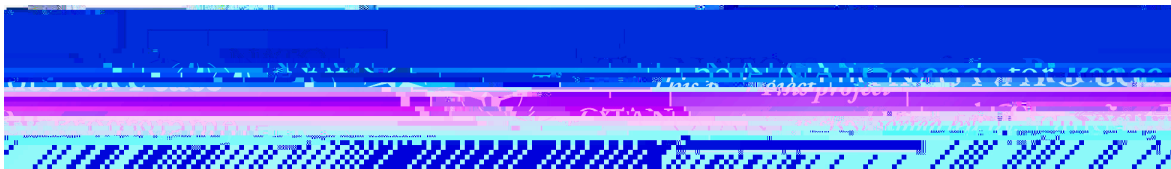
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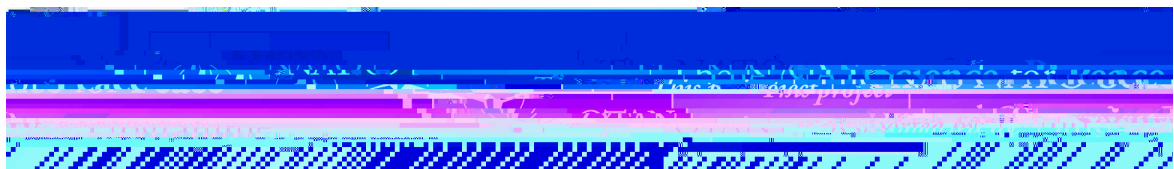


- !! enhance interoperability;
  - !! develop common capabilities;
  - !! share innovation and lessons learned;
  - !! and reduce costs.
- ! The armed forces share common traditions, have closely aligned doctrines and operating procedures and some commonality in equipment. The countries are able to, and do, combine to form an Australasian military force if circumstances demand. Wide-ranging programmes are attempting to bring the armed forces even closer together.
  - ! The wider security sector has an annual 'National Security Dialogue'. This reinforces national efforts to respond to international security challenges.
  - ! There are extremely close economic ties. The countries are major trading and investment partner with each other and are moving towards a 'single economic market'.
  - ! Movement between and employment within each country is a matter of routine for the



New Zealand to play a role commensurate with its abilities, rather than with its desires. New Zealand rarely meets Australian expectations.

There are two approaches to achieving military security. The first is to develop an independent military capability, the second to develop defence partnerships. In practice, most countries combine independent armed forces with military partnerships of some form. The question then is: 'where should the balance for New Zealand be between independent capacity and action and combined responses to the security environment?' A closer relationship with Australia would better position both countries for a worsening strategic environment. At the very least, it would bring economies of scale not achieved under current approaches.



- ! Develop a combined approach to understanding the likely future military operating environment.

#### *The Worst Case: Radical Renewal*

- ! Radical renewal ensures that New Zealand is able, with Australia, to respond to any worsening security situation. The countries should investigate:
- ! A permanent secretariat for the Australasian Defence Agencies; leading to
- ! Australasian Defence Union; and failing that
- ! Common policy approaches and commitments to specified threats
- ! Alignment of defence budgets
- ! Combined operations centres
- ! Combined specialist commands
- ! Capability specialisation and commitment
- ! Continual rather than ad hoc collaboration to include operationally ready combined units and eventually operationally ready combined formations
- ! Combined defence science and technology and development of an integrated defence industrial base
- ! Common approaches to development of 'new' capabilities

#### Conclusions

- ! A close strategic relationship already exists. If a significantly closer relationship is desired, radically new approaches will have to be considered.
- ! Choices will have to be made and will depend on assessments of the future strategic environment. The choices are:
  - ! In the less threatening environment, seek to make the best of the relationship (optimise), but approach the relationship with a clear understanding of what is possible (pragmatism).
  - !

