

The.Firm

To: Bronwyn.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au
Cc: APA Peer Review Group
Subject: THE RISKS ARE NOW MATERIALISING



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Dear Mrs Bishop,

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I ask you to cast your mind back to June 1998 and the launch of your Strategic Policy for Defence and Industry, moreover the period of development of this policy from 1996.

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During this period, I worked closely with people like Greg Johannes et al in the development of this policy – a damned good policy that is yet to be implemented.

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During its development, a number of risks were identified in relation to the influx of overseas prime contractors onto our shores and the possible effects this could have on our Industry. Strategies were put in place in the policy to address and mitigate these risks. These strategies were developed on the basis of modern day thinking about risk which follows the ‘there’s no gain without pain, no advance without risk’ paradigm or, more simply stated, that “risks, properly managed, equal opportunities”. Inter alia, this approach resulted in the win-win basis that underpinned what became ‘Bishop’s Rules for Defence Industry’.

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As stated above, this policy is yet to be implemented. As a result, the risks we identified are now materialising.

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For instance, as but one example, while Australia is wrestling with the current skills crisis which is an ailment of most western societies today, there are forces at work whose interests do not lie in our national interest (ie. they come from offshore). Their activities within Defence will likely lead to the loss of many jobs in and the resulting decimation of the Australian Aerospace Industry. More particularly, their activities will lead to the loss of sovereign control of key defence capabilities.

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I seek the opportunity to discuss the results of the analyses that have led to these conclusions with a view to working with the Government and Defence, as was done back in the 1990s, to treat these risks and stop them materialising to fruition.

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Very Best Regards,

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07 November 2006

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Attachments:



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1-Bishop_Risks_