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The Hon. Joe Hockey MP  
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27/06/07

**Re your letter 4 th June 07 re AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY PLAN.**

Dear Joe,

I do appreciate you taking our concerns on board in the context of Cabinet discussions.

As you know we have documented detail concerns on Defence' current proposal to buy 100 of the F-35 JSF, a battlefield interdiction fighter, to cover all our air superiority functions; for which purpose it was never designed. The continuing proliferation of advanced Sukhois plus the more sinister acquisition of supersonic cruise missiles by countries in our region is alarming.

We believe that a better way exists which includes a combination of the fully stealthy, supercruising F-22 and retaining and enhancing the F-111 which has more than a decade of life left in it and has superior range, speed and payload.

This proposal is not only considerably more effective, giving us tier one air dominance , full stealth and supercruising( and unique ability to defeat cruise missiles) and includes the F-111 for long range deep strike, **but has considerably lower cost.**

A cost comparison schedule is enclosed. It is produced by Australian industry and the information is from publicly available sources.

You and your Cabinet colleagues must wonder why it is that little or no criticism has arisen with the Govt's decision to buy the Spanish warships, the C-17 , the Wedgetail or the Abrams in total contrast to the relentless, detailed and intense criticism of the Defence' ACCP by both highly qualified specialist analysts and former high ranking RAAF personel. Just perhaps our groups' criticism is valid.

I will continue to keep Trent informed of developments on this vital aspect of national security.

Our great hope is that the Defence Minister just studies our submissions.

Yours sincerely