



**Foundation**

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## Kokoda calls for fast track on space policy

Space-based services such as timing, navigation and satellite communications are deeply and pervasively embedded into global economic and social systems.

If these services were to be denied or severely disrupted economic and social life would suffer dislocation and some sectors would likely grind to a halt.

A Kokoda Foundation paper, *A Space Policy for Australia*, argues that Australians must understand that their future best interests may be served only by adopting a more active and self-reliant stance in space.

“From a national perspective, Australia would do well to consider all space-based services as ‘virtual’ components of national critical infrastructure deserving similar levels of attention from the perspective of business continuity, risk mitigation, disaster response and recovery to that which is allocated to terrestrial utilities – water, sewerage, power, communications and transport,” said co-author of the Kokoda Foundation paper Mr Brett Biddington.

The Kokoda paper recommends investment in three areas:

- An enduring satellite remote sensing program to meet operational needs and to assist with strategic objectives;
- Space situational awareness; and,
- An enduring national space research and technology program.

“The basis for a space industry appropriate to Australia’s needs already exists in niche areas of the electronics sector of the economy,” said Mr Biddington. “Appropriately nurtured, this sector has the potential to grow significantly over the next decade to include an export component.”

The Kokoda Foundation paper also recommends that the proposed national space policy must be firmly set in the context of Australia’s overall national security and take account of:

- The advantages and constraints conferred by Australia’s strategic geography,
- Australia’s alliance relationship with the United States; and,
- Australia’s determination to use creative middle power diplomacy to further its national interests in bilateral and multi-lateral forums.

Ends

More information about this paper:

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## The Kokoda Foundation

The Kokoda Foundation has been established as an independent, not-for-profit think tank to research, and foster innovative thinking on, Australia's future security challenges.

The Kokoda Foundation has two core goals:

- To research Australia's tough future national security challenges.
- To foster the development of a new generation of young strategic thinkers who are well-equipped to deal with the diverse security challenges that lie ahead.

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