



In what ways can Australia continue to advance its key national and geopolitical interests in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean region?

P FOR PENGUIN: THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC EDUCATION STRATEGY

This policy proposal was developed by the Yellow Team of the Futures Thinking workshop, delivered during the Institute for Regional Security's Future Strategic Leaders' Congress on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in June 2019

AUSTRALIA'S 2040 VISION

The problem with co-ordinating good policy in Antarctica is that public awareness of the treaty system and much of the research occurring on, or under, the ice is low. Those who have visited Antarctica personally are strong advocates for ensuring the region remains environmentally vibrant and free from competition over resources. Such a small base of awareness makes it difficult to justify funding, talk about the activities of other countries in the public sphere, and to further reinforce Australia's sovereignty claim.

An engaged and aware public on Antarctica issues will take time, but will enhance Government messaging, build the next generation of Antarctica leaders, and ensure wider support for actions taken by Australia to ensure research is conducted in accordance with the principle of the Antarctic Treaty System. Greater public knowledge of Antarctica is a crucial enabler for any policies we may pursue in the future.

We propose rolling out an education program across the country to build awareness of Antarctica issues through the lens of a variety of subjects. Rather than a single, elective unit, we propose expanding the coverage of Antarctica issues across the broader curriculum. Examples include: covering the Antarctic Treaty System in legal studies; studying the varying fields of research occurring on the ice in science; exploring some of the mythology and stories of Antarctica as a place for adventurers through English; and discussing some of the key players in Antarctica and how they co-operate or compete through their presence through the lens of a politics unit.



P FOR PENGUIN WILL ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ANTARCTICA ISSUES THROUGH THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM, INCULCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ANTARCTICA EXPERTS AND RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ANTARCTICA IN SUPPORT OF AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS

The program will begin with primary and secondary education. If successful, we propose expanding the initiative to include tertiary education programs through more targeted forms of student research projects. A scholarship for a week-long exchange in Antarctica for the top percentage of science students working on Antarctic-related research could also be rolled out in the later stages of implementation.

Key risks include pushback from state and territory governments on the mandating of Antarctica across the curriculum. Education bodies may highlight lack of funding and that the curriculum is already full. The proposed approach of incorporating smaller studies of Antarctica throughout existing subjects would mitigate this. The list of subjects does not have to be exhaustive to begin with and can be built on further once established. The proposal would also be of minimal cost.

To further mitigate resistance at the state and territory level, we propose early engagement with educators, education bodies, and governments. This could include short Antarctica visits for those tasked with implementing the programs – political staffers, education departments, and those designing the curriculum. Virtual reality could also be leveraged in lieu of physical visits. By giving key stakeholders greater visibility over the importance of issues, and the picture on the ice we can encourage deeper engagement – building interest beyond the Antarctica buffs.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTICA AND SOUTHERN OCEAN AUTHORITY

This policy proposal was developed by the Green Team of the Futures Thinking workshop, delivered during the Institute for Regional Security's Future Strategic Leaders' Congress on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in June 2019

AUSTRALIA'S 2040 VISION

A 2040 vision that fosters international cooperation and increases Australia's engagement on issues relating to the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Region. Australia will hold a position of authority within the region and makes a deliberate effort to safeguard the Antarctic treaty system, and the environmental and political stability of the region.



THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTICA AND SOUTHERN OCEAN AUTHORITY WILL ENSURE THAT THE ANTARCTIC REGION IS A PRIORITY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT NOW AND INTO THE FUTURE

In order to successfully establish the Australian Antarctic and Southern Ocean Authority (the Authority), a number of milestone priorities have been mapped to 2024, including:

- Consult with stakeholders, including researchers, governments, policy, non-government organisations.
- Establish the Authority within the portfolio of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- The Australian Border Force funded to procure several ships and conduct maritime operation in the Southern Ocean to help safeguard the region.
- Engage the Australian public's interest in the safety and security of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean region, through the implementation of a strategic communications and messaging plan that is geared to developing the awareness of young Australians.
- Engage with international actors to reinforce the Antarctic Treaty System.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ANTARCTIC JOINT EFFORT AND FUNDING ASSOCIATION

This policy proposal was developed by the Purple Team of the Futures Thinking workshop, delivered during the Institute for Regional Security's Future Strategic Leaders' Congress on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in June 2019

AUSTRALIA'S 2040 VISION

Achieving a 2040 future where there are key technological advancements in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean region, which result in an influx of tourism and research findings, the most preeminent of which is the discovery of the million-ice core. With this increased interest in the region and the acknowledgement of the Madrid protocol coming to an end in 2048, Australia should welcome the establishment of the Antarctica Joint Effort and Funding Agreement (AJEFA).



THE ANTARCTIC JOINT EFFORT AND FUNDING ASSOCIATION WILL BE THE PREEMINENT SCIENTIFIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BODY, WHICH PROMOTES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND PROTECTION OF ANTARCTIC RESOURCES

The AJEFA will commence with initial signatories to the Antarctic Treaty System, and expand to all countries that acknowledge the importance of the rules-based global order. The AJEFA will promote the use of sustainable energy sources, eco-efficiency, shared research with all members and a rostered Coast Guard to protect fisheries from illegal actions.

The Australian Government will establish the AJEFA by 2040, with internal and public funding guided by research findings. As the leading scientific body promoting scientific research and development in the Antarctic and Southern Ocean region, the AJEFA funding model will rely on technological and knowledge breakthroughs, which then feedback through academia to increase funding and research grants to continue with its research priorities.

CREATION OF THE ANTARCTIC TECH MECCA

This policy proposal was developed by the Red Team of the Futures Thinking workshop, delivered during the Institute for Regional Security's Future Strategic Leaders' Congress on Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in June 2019

AUSTRALIA'S 2040 VISION

A 2040 future where the Antarctic is a global hub for technological organisations and innovation. The tech mecca would operate like Silicon Valley in the United States, to reinvigorate a technological revolution in support of scientific research and innovation.



A TECH MECCA WOULD ACT AS A GLOBAL MEDIATOR AND PREVENT ANTARCTICA FROM BEING UTILISED SIMPLY AS A SECURITY LEVERAGE POINT FOR GLOBAL POWERS

As part of an effort to reduce global security tension, Australia would develop a whole-of-government strategy to create a prosperous environment for technology and business in the Antarctic. Key components of this strategy include reducing tax burdens for organisations operating in the Antarctic; a boost in funding for science and innovation in the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science; and creation of an advertising campaign leveraging the environmental benefits of Antarctica for businesses, such as low temperatures for mass computer storage (currently operating in countries like Greenland), as well as vast land to create infrastructure.