

Abstract

The Australian Government's Efforts to Connect Strategic Foresight with Risk Management

In 2008 the Australian Government undertook a review of its national security administrative arrangements (the Review of Homeland and Border Security) to achieve greater coordination of national security policy. This review resulted in a range of changes and improvements to Australia's national security architecture—the cornerstone of which is the 2008 National Security Statement (NSS), delivered in the Australian Parliament by the then Prime Minister of Australia.

The NSS established a National Security Strategic Policy Framework and formalised arrangements for a more comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to the allocation of resources, performance evaluation and priority-setting across national security issues. The NSS also directed that Australia apply a risk-based approach to its national security architecture.

This presentation will discuss how the Australian Government is integrating risk into its National Security Strategic Policy Framework through a whole of government strategic risk assessment process. This includes discussion on the mechanisms being employed to ensure breadth of coverage in the risks and risk events, and how strategic connections and interdependencies are explored to support prioritisation of risks—to help inform national security policy development and decision making.