



## Submissions for the *Australia 2020* Summit

The Rudd Government will convene an *Australia 2020* Summit at Parliament House on 19-20 April 2008 to help shape a long term strategy for the nation's future.

The Summit will bring together some of the best and brightest brains from across the country to tackle the long term challenges confronting Australia's future.

Every Australian has the opportunity to make a submission to the Summit in one of the ten critical areas of discussion:

1. The productivity agenda – education, skills, training, science and innovation
2. The future of the Australian economy
3. Population, sustainability, climate change and water
4. Future directions for rural industries and rural communities
5. A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population
6. Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion
7. Options for the future of Indigenous Australia
8. Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design
9. The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens
10. Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.

### **Submissions**

Contributing a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit is a way for all Australians to be involved in bringing the best ideas forward to address Australia's long term challenges.

All submissions will be made publicly available on this website and will be presented to the *Australia 2020* Summit participants to stimulate discussion and ideas about addressing our future challenges.

Individuals, schools, groups, and organisations are invited to make submissions.

Written submissions are limited to 500 words per topic and should focus on one of the ten identified areas. You may contribute a submission in one or more policy areas.

Submissions will be collected by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which is acting as a secretariat for the *Australia 2020* Summit.

All submissions require a 'name for publication'. This can be an individual, group or organisation. In addition to this, each submission is required to include a contact person, their name and details. These contact details will not be published.

Your submission can play an important role in our national discussion about our future and facing Australia's long term future challenges.

***What do I have to do to contribute a submission?***

If you would like to contribute a submission to the *Australia 2020* Summit in Canberra on 19-20 April 2008, complete this form and return it to the address below no later than **5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008**.

Submissions can also be completed online through the *Australia 2020* website at [www.australia2020.gov.au](http://www.australia2020.gov.au).

Before completing the form please read all the information provided on this page to assist in completing your submission.

All submissions require a 'name for publication'. This can be an individual, group or organisation. Your name will appear with your submission when they are published online.

You will also be required to include contact details – your name, address, email address and a contact phone number. These details are collected in case we need to contact you in the lead up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. Your details will only be used for this purpose and will not be published.

If you are making a submission as a group, please include the details of a contact person for your group.

***Completing the form***

The form requires you to complete your personal details and a 'name for publication'. This may be your name or your group's name.

You will then be able to complete a submission for one or more of the topic areas.

Each submission may be up to 500 words per topic to ensure that delegates are able to consider each of the submissions. If just one in every 1000 Australians comments on just one of the ten topic areas, each delegate may have to read more than one million words in the lead up to the Summit. Keeping your contribution concise will ensure that all submissions receive the attention and consideration they deserve.

For this reason attachments, publications, photos and images may not be included in your submission, though you may make reference to any of these you consider useful, including by providing references to further material.

***Editorial guidelines***

Submissions will be published subject to editorial control that restricts any offensive material or material inappropriate for publication being made public.

If you are hand writing your nomination, please be sure your writing is clear and legible to ensure your submission is able to be considered.

### **Contacts**

Any enquiries regarding the Summit should be directed to:

Australia 2020 Summit Secretariat  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

Toll free number: **1800 703 599** (during business hours Eastern Standard Time)

### **Privacy and confidentiality**

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is committed to the protection of your privacy in accordance with the Federal Privacy Commissioner's Guidelines for Federal and ACT Government World Wide Websites. These guidelines outline the requirements for transparent collection, appropriate and ethical use and secure storage of personal information.

The information you provide to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet through the *2020 Summit* submission form will be used for the purposes of the *2020 Summit* only.

Only your 'name for publication' and your submission will be provided to delegates for consideration in their deliberations of 19-20 April 2008, and in this way may be incorporated into the Summit Outcomes.



## AUSTRALIAN 2020 SUMMIT SUBMISSION FORM

Nominations must be received **by 5.00pm Wednesday 9 April 2008** to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet at:

*Australia 2020* Summit Secretariat  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
1 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

Please Note: fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory

# denotes information that will be made publicly available

PUBLICATION DETAILS #			
So that your submission can be published on the <a href="http://www.australia2020.gov.au">www.australia2020.gov.au</a> website before the Summit, we need you to provide a 'Name for Publication' that you are happy to have appear with your submission. If you are submitting on behalf of a group, this may be your group's name.			
<b>Individual Name/Group Name for Publication on the website*</b>	Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd		
CONTACT DETAILS			
We need to collect some personal details from you in case we need to contact you in the lead-up to or after the summit to discuss your ideas further. These details will only be used for this purpose. If you are making a group submission, please provide these details for one member of your group.			
INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP CONTACT			
<b>Title*</b>	Ms		
<b>First Name*</b>	Robin		
<b>Surname/Family Name*</b>	Banks		
<b>Age Groups*</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-24 <input type="checkbox"/> 25-30 <input type="checkbox"/> 31-40 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 41-50 <input type="checkbox"/> 51-60 <input type="checkbox"/> Over 61		
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**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

***The productivity agenda – education, skills, training, science and innovation***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. Ensure that digital technologies are harnessed to improve consumer services, business productivity and the delivery of government services.
- b. Best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. Attract and retain the most talented, creative and highly skilled people, including researchers and scientists, entrepreneurs, and professional and skilled workers
- d. Ensure that our children have the highest quality teachers, whether in early childhood, school, TAFE or university, including dealing with the crisis in maths and science related disciplines across the education system

**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

***The future of the Australian economy***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine ways to:

- a. After a long period of sustained economic growth and with the added benefits of the global mining boom, how do we best invest the proceeds of this prosperity to lay the foundations for future economic growth
- b. How we best prepare for a global economy that will increasingly be based upon advanced skills, advanced technology, low carbon energy sources and integration with global supply chains
- c. How we take advantage of Australia's proximity to the fast growing economies in the world
- d. How we boost public and private investment in economic infrastructure
- e. Foster innovation in the workplace; encouraging the transfer of ideas across businesses and economies.

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(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

**Population, sustainability, climate change and water**

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia develops a long term plan to adapt to the growing impacts of climate change on our environment
- b. How does Australia best plan for its long-term water and energy needs
- c. How we position Australia to become a global leader within the next decade in the new low carbon technologies and industries
- d. How do we plan future population growth at a national and regional level, given the constraints of water shortages and sustainability.

Consumers face substantial rises in the retail prices of energy and water in coming years as the result of reduced rainfall and the introduction of a carbon price. Average national household expenditure on energy and water may double from the current level of around 4 % of household income. As well as increasing the pressure on consumers to save energy and water, sometimes to the detriment of their health or well-being, this may have flow-on effects as some vulnerable consumers reduce their discretionary spending or go into (greater) debt. This is the context in which Australia needs to respond to the challenge of population, sustainability, climate change and water.

**Internal Migration**

Lower rainfall, rising sea levels, greater threat from bushfires/severe weather/health impacts, and other impacts of climate change — especially on tourism, agriculture and coastal communities — will make some areas of Australia less livable, but others relatively more so. As a nation we have not yet identified the population ‘hotspots’ and directed attention to how they will meet the challenge of greater population pressure.

PIAC recommends that a national taskforce on internal migration be established to lead planning for new urban and regional infrastructure and to manage potential land use conflicts.

The taskforce’s work should recognise that low-income and marginalised Australians, including rural and Indigenous communities, will be disproportionately affected by climate change and will need the most assistance in adapting.

**Water and Energy Markets**

PIAC recommends that the supply-side dominance of energy and water industries be reduced by creating greater opportunities for community consultation, empowerment and self-sufficiency in the water and energy industries/markets. Specifically:

- The role of the National Water Commission’s Urban Water Advisory Group should be expanded to institutionalise consumer advocacy and ongoing public consultation.
- Each level of government should consider how individual consumers, households and communities can be empowered to be responsible for resourcing as much of their own energy and water supply as possible, reducing the reliance on ‘big ticket’ solutions such as desalination plants.
- A national regime for feed-in tariffs for embedded generation of electricity (a substantial bonus based on gross metering) should be established as a priority.

**Deep cuts in CO2 emissions**

PIAC supports deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in the medium term (25-40% by 2030) and long term (90% by 2050, as recommended in the interim Garnaut Review), with the following complementary initiatives:

- There should be no free emissions permits for electricity generators, to encourage industry restructure.
- Income from the national emissions trading scheme should be allocated between renewable energy research and development and support for low-income households.
- In the absence of commercially viable ‘clean coal technology’, development of a national plan for phasing out coal-fired power stations, including the end of industry subsidies.
- Development of a national plan for converting energy retailers into energy service companies, with profits not from increased consumption but from encouraging greater energy efficiency.

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***Future directions for rural industries and rural communities***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. What rural industries are best positioned to take advantage of the global consumer markets of the 21st century
- b. What options are possible for effective structural adjustment for rural industries and communities suffering the long term impact of climate change
- c. What is the most intelligent form of support the Government can provide to ensure the long term sustainability of rural and regional communities, including the fostering of the next generation of Australian farmers.



**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

***A long-term national health strategy – including the challenges of preventative health, workforce planning and the ageing population***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we invest to help prevent chronic and acute health problems
- b. How we plan to ensure all Australians continue to have access to the very best of modern medical technology including pharmaceuticals
- c. How we meet the emerging regulatory challenges of modern medical technology
- d. The use of electronic infrastructure to facilitate efficient and effective patient care
- e. Strategies to preserve Australia’s internationally unique blend of public and private health services
- f. How Australia best plans for the future demands on our medical workforce.

**Consumer rights**

For many Australians, enjoying good health is their top priority. The importance of a quality and accessible health care system in Australia cannot be overstated. On top of this, Australians want a health care system they can trust. With increased attention on adverse events, and the recognition that many Australians are actually *harmed* during the delivery of health care, the need for transparency is increasing in importance.

Doctors and other health care professionals, on the whole, are very capable individuals. However, mistakes are made. The recognition that many errors are made because of systemic problems must be emphasised. PIAC considers the importance of a national focus on safety, transparency and quality in health care cannot be underestimated, and should be considered a priority issue. The voice of consumers should be promoted and given a formal role within the health care system.

**Indigenous health**

Addressing the gap in terms of health outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians should remain a top priority of Government. The state of Indigenous health in Australia is an international disgrace, and must be addressed as a matter of urgency, and utmost importance.

**Access by rural and regional Australians**

Every Australian deserves to access quality health care, regardless of where they live. There is no reason why people in rural and regional areas should not be able to access the same quality of health care as those people in urban areas, whether this be in their local community or through effective support systems to access (at no extra cost) specialist services in urban areas.

**Funding of health care in Australia**

The provision of public funding towards health care in Australia should be increased over time, not diminished. The proportion of GDP dedicated to sustain health should reflect the community priority. Additional funding is required to develop and implement national strategies for dental health and mental health.

PIAC commends the trend toward the funding of preventative health care and the attempt to address the incidence of chronic diseases such as obesity. However, PIAC is of the view that such campaigns should be addressed through a whole of government response. In the case of obesity, and childhood obesity in particular, governments should be encouraged to respond to these issues with firm action, such as the recent moves to ban junk food advertising during children’s television hours. Genuine whole-of-government responses are required in order for preventative health strategies to be successful.

**Privacy**

PIAC would like to emphasise the sensitivity of health information, and the importance of protecting the privacy of this sensitive information. As public confidence in the health care system generally can be undermined by poor health outcomes in certain care contexts, so too can the public’s confidence be undermined when information systems do not prove to be effective in protecting privacy. As the move toward electronic health records gains momentum, PIAC would like to emphasise the importance of privacy as a central consideration in this shift in health care delivery emerges.

**SUMMIT TOPICS FOR SUBMISSIONS #**

(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

**Strengthening communities, supporting families and social inclusion**

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we provide practical support to families to combine the tasks of work, raising children and caring for ageing parents
- b. How we make a long term difference on homelessness
- c. How we better harness the goodwill and commitment of the Australian community through voluntary and community organisations and philanthropic endeavour
- d. How we build social capital within and between communities, particularly those that are cut off from the economic mainstream.

PIAC has identified a number of measures the Australian Government should adopt to assist families cope with the challenge of managing work and family life, to increase social inclusion and reduce the current level of homelessness.

**Work and family**

Practical support could be provided to those attempting to combine work and family by the introduction of measures such as:

- Introducing guaranteed paid maternity leave
- Targeting welfare payments to the areas of greatest need and reducing 'middle-class' non-means-tested welfare
- The establishment of Federal industrial relations laws and regulations that secure that secure workers' rights and provide for working hours that preserve the well-being of workers
- The development of Federal Government policies and practices that reflect an inclusive definition of the term 'family'
- Greater access and funding to child care services, particularly not-for-profit services

**Homelessness**

A significant reduction in current levels of homelessness could be achieved through:

- Greater provision of long-term supported accommodation for people with mental illness and intellectual disability
- The development of domestic legislation that supports and protects the human rights of homeless people, including the right to social security and the right to affordable housing
- The removal of mutual obligation requirements for those who are homeless or on the verge of homelessness
- The provision of co-ordinated and adequate pre- and post-release services to individuals exiting prison and other institutions, focusing on rehabilitation not punitive measures

**Third Sector**

The vital role of the Third Sector in supporting and strengthening communities and building community capacity cannot be underestimated. Targeted resourcing to peak and specialist Third Sector organisations that focus on capacity building would have beneficial flow-on effects not only in social inclusion but also in engagement with Australia's mechanisms of governance. Government funding programs need to both encourage locally based innovative programs to respond to needs and provide ongoing funding to sustain effective programs.

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**Options for the future of indigenous Australia**

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How we forge a new partnership with between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australia to overcome disadvantage and provide practical pathways to the future
- b. The role of targeted programs and interventions such as the Northern Territory Intervention and the Cape York Welfare Reform Trials in achieving change in remote communities
- c. How we might promote economic development in remote Australia to provide Indigenous community members with the opportunity to be economically independent
- d. Improving access to mainstream programs by Indigenous Australians
- e. Promoting and preserving Indigenous culture, languages and traditions.

**Self-determination**

Self-determination is crucial to finding solutions to the problems confronting Indigenous communities. At the national level, promoting self-determination means re-establishing a national representative body for Indigenous Australians and ensuring that it is well funded and has the central role in designing Indigenous policy across government.

The *Social Justice Report 2007* discusses 19 successful programs that address family violence and sexual assault in Indigenous communities. These programs are successful because they come from within communities and empower Indigenous people. In any community, addressing social problems including family violence, sexual assault and substance abuse requires sustained commitment. At the local and regional level, promoting self-determination means providing secure funding and practical support to Indigenous organizations.

**Reparation for historical wrongs**

The Prime Minister's apology was an important first step towards implementing the recommendations of *Bringing them home*. Implementation in full requires full reparation to the Stolen Generations. PIAC's 2002 report *Restoring Identity* contains a proposal for a Reparation Tribunal, developed in consultation with Indigenous organisations and communities across Australia.

The related issue of Indigenous Stolen Wages was discussed in the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee's report *Unfinished Business*.

The paternalism that created the Stolen Generations and Stolen Wages caused inter-generational harm. Members of the Stolen Generations were often deprived of the opportunity to learn parenting skills. Their descendants lost culture and family connections and it has fallen to them to care for traumatised parents who often suffer due to mental illness or substance abuse. Similarly, government control of Indigenous people's money deprived them of the opportunity to learn financial skills and deprived their descendants of their financial inheritance.

Providing full reparation regarding the Stolen Generations and Stolen Wages is not just about justice, it is essential for the future of Indigenous Australia.

**Human rights**

All Australians have rights to education, housing, healthcare, food and water. PIAC commends the Close the Gap initiative, but it does not provide reparation for historical wrongs perpetrated against Indigenous people. Rather, it is the Australian Government's international obligation to ensure that Indigenous people can enjoy their human rights.

The prohibition on racial discrimination has special importance for Indigenous Australians. Aspects of the Northern Territory Intervention are racially discriminatory. PIAC supports the Social Justice Commissioner's Ten Point Action Plan to reform the Intervention. The Australian Government should commit to developing future Indigenous policy consistently with the *Racial Discrimination Act* and international human rights standards.

**Criminal justice and corrections**

Seventeen years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, over-representation of Indigenous people in the criminal justice and corrections systems remains both a symptom and a major cause of disadvantage. Indigenous imprisonment rates increased by 31.9% between 2000 and 2006 yet funding for Aboriginal Legal Aid Services decreased 40% in real terms. PIAC supports an immediate 30% increase in funding for Aboriginal Legal Aid Services.

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***Towards a creative Australia: the future of the arts, film and design***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. Future directions for Australia's principal arts bodies
- b. Future directions for the ABC, SBS, Australia Television and Radio Australia
- c. How best to develop a globally innovative and competitive film industry
- d. How to encourage participation in emerging global industries such as game design, the internet 2.0, graphics-rich applications and animation
- e. How we build on the creative sector's potential as a major Australian export industry.

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***The future of Australian governance: renewed democracy, a more open government (including the role of the media), the structure of the Federation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens***

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How best to implement an effective an agenda of open government which best balances the legitimate requirements of the media and the confidentiality requirements of cabinet government in the Westminster system
- b. How best to engaged the community in government decision making
- c. What forms of Federation reform are appropriate for the future to maximise outcomes for the economy and the community
- d. How to ensure the future viability of local government operations and infrastructure provision.

**Freedom of Information**

PIAC submits that Freedom of Information (FOI) should be administered to give effect to its democratic objectives and a primary right of citizens to have access to political information. This view is supported by decisions of the High Court in the late 1990s.

If FOI is to achieve its objective of supporting democratic government, and challenge the traditions of secrecy, greater weight needs to be given to the community's interest in access to political information. In Australia there has been comparatively low public use of FOI rights, poor compliance with FOI reporting obligations and limited appeal rights.

PIAC's experience as an FOI applicant and representing clients is that some government agencies deliberately delay making decisions about whether to release documents. In PIAC's experience it is the exception when decisions are made within the time limits set by FOI legislation.

PIAC has found that some government agencies either do not understand their obligations to provide access to documents under FOI legislation or are attempting to avoid providing access to documents. For example, when a request for access to documents has been made under FOI, agencies have provided a summary of what the documents relate to rather than the documents themselves. One agency provided a summary in response to the initial requests. On internal review, when PIAC stressed that the purpose of the Act was to allow access to primary documents, the agency again provided a different but similar summary of the issues.

**Human Rights Charters**

PIAC submits that the Commonwealth government should implement an independent community consultation on the effective protection of human rights.

Australia is the only modern democracy without a national charter of human rights. As a result some states have taken up the challenge of addressing the lack of comprehensive human rights protection. PIAC submits that all the commonwealth states and territories should have human rights charters.

Although most people in the community and government respect human rights, many of the rights we take for granted have no protection under law. While some rights are protected by legislation such as equal opportunity and anti-discrimination laws, many rights are not protected, for example: the right to vote, freedom of expression, the right not to be arbitrarily detained, and the right to join a union and have access to collective bargaining.

**Government and the Third Sector**

As Government relies on not-for-profit organisation for delivery of an increasing range of services, there is a need to re-examine the basis of the relationship of government and the third sector. PIAC advocates the establishment of an inquiry to consult widely and look at the roles of the sector, its legal status and its regulation, and make recommendations for reform.

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(please limit comments to 500 words per topic)

**Australia's future security and prosperity in a rapidly changing region and world.**

The *Australia 2020* Summit will examine:

- a. How Australia best protects its national security interests in the face of an increasingly complex threat spectrum, including terrorism, bio-security and other threats to human security – as well as the adequacy of existing institutional arrangements for dealing with the threat spectrum into the future
- b. How Australia should maximise its cooperation with its long-standing ally the United States
- c. How Australia engages with China and India in the coming decades as both play an increasingly important economic and political role
- d. How Australia can make the greatest contribution both within and outside the framework of the United Nations in addressing the challenge of extreme poverty
- e. The long-term adequacy of Australia's existing foreign language capabilities to meet increasingly complex challenges presented by the globalisation.

**Human Rights**

PIAC supports a role for Australia as a creative middle power in international diplomacy. However, PIAC would go one step further and suggest that Australia should seek to become a 'leader' in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. Australia should lead the way by placing human rights at the forefront of national and international discussions of security, trade and foreign relations.

Australia should formally mandate its support for the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* and ratify all of the following international Human Rights Treaties: the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocols*, the *International Convention on Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families*, and the *Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, and the *Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*.

The Asia-Pacific region, is the only region in the world that has not adopted a regional human rights treaty or established a regional Court of human rights. PIAC urges Australia to take up this challenge.

**Fair Trade**

Trade negotiations with China, India and other nations should be undertaken through open, democratic and transparent processes that allow effective public consultation to take place about whether negotiations should proceed and the content of those negotiations. Before a decision is made to begin negotiations, comprehensive studies of the likely impacts of the agreement should be undertaken and made public for debate and consultation. It should be a prerequisite of Australia pursuing trade agreements that parties to the agreement abide by international standards on human rights, labour rights and environmental sustainability, as defined by the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation. Furthermore trade agreements should not undermine the capacity of governments to make laws and policies in the public interest, particularly in regard to essential services and investment.

PIAC also urges Government to seek to engage in multilateral negotiations in preference to bilateral negotiations.

**Interventions**

Similarly, Australia should seek to support UN military interventions in the Asia-Pacific region in preference to bilateral interventions. Forms of non-military intervention/support such as environmental assistance to countries in crisis should be utilised more frequently. Australia's foreign aid should be increased at least to the UN Millennium Development Goal Target of 0.7% GDP by 2015.

**Security**

PIAC considers that although Australia must be able to protect the community against security threats, these measures must comply with internationally accepted human rights standards. In PIAC's view, Australia's existing counter-terrorism legislation does not meet these standards and should be amended. PIAC urges the Australian government to introduce a Federal Charter of Human Rights, to provide a

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transparent and rational framework for balancing questions of individual liberties against issues of public safety in relation to future security measures. Such changes to domestic legislation would also enhance Australia's international standing as a democratic and egalitarian nation.