



Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia
Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

WA left vulnerable for too long

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Australian defence forces should have been focused on the vulnerable and resource rich Western Australian coast long before now, according to WA Senator Alan Eggleston who added a review of where military assets are based is long overdue.

“Without increased protection, the Indian Ocean off our WA coastline is particularly exposed to threats of terrorism and invasion,” Senator Eggleston said.

“With increased defence personnel it would be possible to permanently man the air bases near Derby and Exmouth and facilitate coastal surveillance and long range patrols.”

“Leaving WA’s oil and gas assets unguarded and vulnerable has been a major deficiency of the Labor Government, who have failed to put the necessary defence facilities in place.”

Senator Eggleston welcomed the announcement of the major review into where Australian forces are based, and urged Defence Minister Stephen Smith to move more warships, military assets and personnel to WA as a matter of urgency.

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