



FDI

FUTURE
DIRECTIONS
INTERNATIONAL

*Independent
Strategic Analysis of
Australia's Global
Interests*

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS
INTERNATIONAL**

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www.futuredirections.org.au

**FUTURE DIRECTIONS INTERNATIONAL
CHARTER**

FDI was established in Perth in 2000. It was the result of the efforts of a group of eminent West Australians, including Sir Charles Court and the then WA State Governor and former Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery (Retd). Its charter was to provide research into issues that would have a direct bearing on Western Australia. It is a not-for-profit organisation and relies on benefactors for its financing. FDI recently has undergone a significant change in its role and the way it conducts its research.

Fundamentally, FDI has two roles: to help ensure that Australians recognise they are part of a two-ocean continent and that West Australians see themselves belonging to a dynamic, national entity in a developing region of the world.

Much of Australia's external focus has centred on the Pacific, Southeast and Eastern Asia. Increasingly, however, with its developing wealth and population, evolving trade and shipping capabilities and expanding geographic and political significance, the Indian Ocean and its littoral states are set to play a major role in Australia's future. Western Australia is also entering an unprecedented period of wealth and development. For this to be sustained, however, West Australians need to understand the challenges and opportunities they face, nationally, regionally and globally. To achieve these outcomes, leaders and their policy makers and implementers need to be aware of the geo-strategic complexities of their region.

RESEARCH AREAS

With this in mind, FDI has established four areas of research that embrace the following:

- Developments in the Indian Ocean region.
- Australia's energy security.
- Future directions for northern Australia.
- Australia's role in solving the global food and water crises.

As a result of the above, FDI now focuses on analytical products that attempt to understand the immediate and foreseeable future in relation to the four areas above. This is unique research in Australia and is of considerable value to national leaders and policy makers.

PRODUCT

FDI produces a number of hardcopy and electronically-delivered analytical assessments. These range from extensive landmark studies to short, current intelligence papers.

FDI now hosts a monthly Indian Ocean Dialogue that is delivered by a subject matter expert on an aspect of the Indian Ocean and its littoral states.

FDI also hosts occasional conferences that feature a subject matter expert on issues of interest to West Australians generally.

ASSOCIATES

FDI relies heavily on Associates who both receive and help produce its product. Associates are represented at all levels of government, private enterprise, academia and the media.



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A NEW APPROACH

Relevant, Timely, Futuristic, Unique

Major Studies

The next phase of FDI's research development is to publish major studies referred to as Landmark Studies. These studies will be the result of a number of conferences (workshops and roundtables) and possibly a public forum. Each of the conferences will involve a number of eminent people from academia, the government, private enterprise and the media. SAPs and other papers will also be published after every conference.

Major studies will be the direct outcome of the four main research areas that were approved by the Board at its last meeting. Studies are preceded by a major scoping paper and each conference is the subject of an instruction.

Major studies under consideration are as follows:

- The Status of the Global Food and Water Crisis
- Competing Interests in the Indian Ocean
- NW Australia: its potential and security
- The Effectiveness of Indigenous Training and Employment Policies
- Geothermal: Its Potential for Australia
- The Pilbara: Prospects for Development
- The GCC and Australia: Shared Interests in Agriculture and Pastoral Development

These are described below.

The Status of the Global Food and Water Crisis

The aim of this study is to answer the following question:

What is the extent of a possible global food and water crisis between now and 2050, how is this likely to evolve and what impact could it have on Australia?

The paper identifies eight workshops that will take place over the next six months.

The first workshop was held on 23 August with a video conference link between Perth and ANU Canberra.

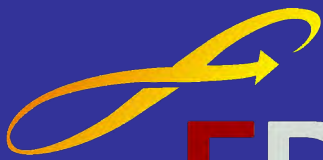
The following factors are considered:

Population Issues
Food Issues
Land Limitations
Water Considerations
Science, Technology and Innovation
International Triggers for Conflict

If you would like to receive regular analytical papers on food and water crises or would like to contribute an article for publication by FDI please contact Gary Kleyn

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Competing Interests in the Indian Ocean

This Study will concentrate on the strategic intentions (stated and perceived) of the three major powers (India, China and the United States) and make judgements about how these will evolve between now and 2020, noting that this is a dynamic process.

NW Australia: its Potential and Security

This study seeks to answer the following question:

How will Australia's strategic, economic and security interests be influenced by developments in northwest Australia between now and 2020?

This study will examine issues relating to the generation of wealth, employment, infrastructure across a number of sectors, including minerals and energy, pastoral and agriculture, fishing, tourism and water. It will also consider security aspects of such developments.

The Effectiveness of Indigenous Training and Employment Policies

This will be a two-part assessment that seeks to understand and to review policies and actions is sought that seeks to answer the following question:

How can indigenous Australians be attracted to, and prepared to, contribute to Australia's need for an expanded workforce?

The major elements include an assessment of employment opportunities to 2020, initially in northwest Western Australia, what opportunities are available to employ indigenous Australians and how they can best be prepared for such employment.

Geothermal: Its Potential for Australia

Geothermal energy has a significant potential but is barely recognised. A public forum may occur early next year possibly preceded by two workshops.

The Pilbara: Prospects for Development

This study will concentrate on the strategic significance of the Pilbara region to 2020. The GCC and Australia: Shared Interests in Agriculture and Pastoral Development
The GCC is concerned with food security and has much to invest. How this could be considered in a way that benefits both the GCC and Australia is the basis for this study.

CONCLUSION

FDI is increasingly being sought as a research organisation and as a means of conveying information. The skills needed to do these activities are being refined and the product adjusted to meet these requirements.

Major General John Hartley AO (Retd)
Institute Director and CEO
Future Directions International