



Royal United Service Institute Queensland Incorporated

Promoting Australia's National Security & Defence

A Constituent Body of the Royal United Services Institute of Australia

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Dear Members,

EXECUTIVE DISPATCH 3/19

This Executive Dispatch provides an update from the Executive Committee Meeting held on 8 March 2019 at Victoria Barracks. The EC considered RUSIQ was at a turning point in its development and that positive progress already in 2019 had set the Institute for success this year, and beyond. However, there remains a significant amount of work to do and the EC is seeking more support from the membership to assist.

Information and decisions on critical issues addressed by the EC are summarised below.

- **Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024**

- Despite past efforts and intentions, RUSIQ had not been operating against a strategic plan with clearly defined statements and objectives. This is not to say we didn't have one, but that we haven't been using it as our guide.
- The EC considered a refreshed draft plan, built on the bones of previous efforts as well as other CBs' ideas. Not much in the new plan should be a surprise to members.
- There was unanimous agreement that this new plan be put to the membership for comment. It is attached to this ED <https://www.rusi.org.au/page-18314> and comments can be submitted at any point.
- However, it was also considered that we should move forward immediately on this 80% solution rather than delay implementation of a 100% solution. It was felt that we can execute the draft plan and concurrently seek and incorporate comments as they are received.
- There is an annual planning cycle and battle rhythm articulated to keep the EC and the Institute on track. Importantly, the planning process is linked to the budget cycle which means we will be making funded decisions that are based on approved priorities.

- **RUSIQ Value Proposition**

- The EC analysed why we had not been successful securing Defence grant funds and concluded that our value proposition to Defence was not competitive. The organisations and institutions that are winning grant funding are highly organised, innovative and expert entities such as universities, think tanks, and commercial private enterprises.

These organisations draw on substantial expertise to develop research proposals or practical activities that demonstrate the ability to deliver a tangible benefit to Defence.

- Using the example of others, the EC will draft a RUSIQ value proposition that we can use to demonstrate the benefits of collaboration with, or sponsorship of, RUSIQ. We have had some early, small, successes based on verbal solicitation and we need to develop a formal document we can use in negotiations with Government/s, Industry and other commercial organisations.

- **The Lecture Program**

- Our Lecture Program has been the mainstay of the Institute for many years and will remain so. Much effort has been expended developing this year's program and we have agreement to participate from an impressive line-up of speakers See <https://www.rusi.org.au/events>.
- Other institutions have already indicated interest in attending these lectures, which is good news. However, we need to convert this interest into membership of RUSIQ.
- Again, building on the backbone of our monthly lectures, we are introducing Special Events, evening lectures, and small group sessions with high level interlocutors. These will take time to develop, but we are already moving in this direction.
- *It is important to acknowledge the EC has listened to the membership's feedback and responded accordingly.*

- **National Website**

- The EC considered in detail the relative merits of the RUSI National website platform, our organic, but dormant, platform, a new platform, or having no platform at all.
 - The EC acknowledged the previous efforts of those who built the organic RUSIQ website. This is a capable platform. However, it was considered that we don't have the resources to maintain an independent website, which is largely why it had fallen into disrepair.
 - In contrast, the National website is not vulnerable to personnel changes and will be managed expertly in the background. The VP Operations has updated the National website to reflect RUSIQ business. See <https://www.rusi.org.au/RUSI-QLD>
 - Moreover, the National website has a wide range of functionality that will streamline our business – from membership management, to event announcements and registrations, to financial management. And it is *relatively* easy to use.
- On balance, the EC has decided to reinforce the successes of the National website. Please consult the website regularly to keep up-to-date with what is going on in your Institute.

- **Annual Fee Structure**

- After much discussion and feedback from the membership, the EC has decided to increase the annual subscription fees to \$45 from 1 July 2019.

- **Seminar Update**

- Planning is on track for the seminar on 5 July 2019. Key details are:
 - Location – Tattersalls Club, Brisbane. The EC has negotiated a competitive rate for this venue.

- Cost – \$100 for RUSIQ Members, ADF, and Students. \$150 for others. This cost includes admission, buffet-style lunch, refreshments, tea and coffee.
- Confirmed speakers – LTGEN Prof Peter Leahy (UC), Mr Peter Jennings (ASPI), Prof Tim Lindsey (UM), Dr Greta Nabs-Keller (UQ). Invited but not confirmed – HE Bpk Yohanes Kristiarto Soeryo Legowo, Bpk Evan Laksana.
- We are aiming to attract 200 attendees.
- We will conduct a seminar dinner to welcome the speakers on 4 July 19.

- **Financial Position**

- RUSIQ is solvent and the accounts are managed well. The latest financial report is available for review.
- However, we need to seek sponsorship to be sustainable over the long term.
- Subscription fee increases alone will not sustain the Institute.

The EC will keep you posted on further developments.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to RUSIQ in the interests of defence and national security.

Peter Mapp
President