

Att. Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, Prime Minister of Australia
Hon. Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Hon. Steven Ciobo, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R.G. Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221 Australia

21 February 2017

Dear Hon. Prime Minister and Ministers,

Foreign Policy White Paper | cloudyBoss Pty Ltd submission

We welcome and thank the Australian Government for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the upcoming Australian Foreign Policy white paper.

The consultative process by which the Australian government is constructing its next strategic foreign policy shows great democratic maturity and in-depth awareness of the virtues derived from co-creative engagement with constituencies.

The board and executive teams of cloudyBoss Pty Ltd, a global cloud-based enterprise engine provider for the 21st and 22nd century organisation, feel that their organisational vision, mission and goals closely align with those of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Forming and formulating a view on Australian Foreign Policy is therefore considered a natural dimension of cloudyboss' responsibilities, duties and obligations as a pro-active Australian corporate citizen.

We've articulated this submission around 6 core sections broadly aligned with the themes originally proposed by DFAT:

01. *A foreign policy underpinned by Australian values serving our interests in the context of a fast changing world*
02. *Reconfiguring our foreign policy from a top-down 200+ nations to a 5,000+ world cities global approach*
03. *Supporting, influencing and shaping strategic global organisations vital to Australia's foreign policy*
04. *Grasping global economic, trade and investment opportunities vital to Australia's future*
05. *Challenges, risks and responses to protect Australian global interests*
06. *Assets and capabilities to pursue Australian global interests*

We hope that both the Australian Government and DFAT will gain value from this submission.

With respectful regards,

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01. A foreign policy underpinned by Australian values serving our interests in the context of a changing world

01.1 How should we define Australia's national interests in a changing world?

cloudyBoss believes that defining Australia's interests in a fast evolving world implies a contextualised analysis, based on global, common and uncontroversial themes, perspectives and potential solutions to planetary issues.

For example, and notwithstanding its gravity or the rigor of its underpinning science, the *climate change* narrative has been overtime and almost irremediably overshadowed by powerful conflict of interests, short-termism and vicious/vitiating politics.

Along the same lines, the daunting fiscal imbalances derived from the demographic *millennial cliff* and ageing population conundrums prove *touchy* narratives prone to tense generational debates, antagonistic views and conflicts.

Vice-versa, the *smart cities* trend provides embedded mitigating solutions to both these global issues, while focussing its own narrative on the immediate, uncontroversial and unifying *urbanisation planning failure* theme and its annual 10m death-toll.

01.2 How should our values underpin Australia's foreign policy?

Attributes such as democratic freedom, advanced egalitarian society, open trade and multiculturalism shape Australia's ethos.

Such attributes coincidentally match the foundations thriving smart cities are built upon.

Australian values would therefore constitute a natural base underpinning an Australian foreign policy centred on smart cities.

This [paper](#) on the fundamentals of smart cities further details context, facts, references and cloudyBoss approach to the topic.

01.3 What should we do differently? How can we do better?

Through its many existing programs, DFAT already operates at a high level difficult to further enhance.

DFAT could nevertheless shift Australia's foreign policy from its current **200+ Nations** makeup to a **5,000+ cities** one.

To achieve such goal within the constraints of a responsible budgetary discipline, DFAT could adopt an innovative, light and agile representation style, potentially self-sustaining its operations via public-private shared economics approaches.

02. Reconfiguring our foreign policy from a top-down 200+ nations to a 5,000+ world cities global approach

cloudyBoss believes that Australia's foreign policy requires a geographical rethink.

cloudyBoss foresees that the nullification of physical distances brought by hyper-connectivity coupled with increasing global trends in citizens' disengagement from public institutions at state, national, federal or regional block levels, are polarising *smart cities* as new centres of governance, leading to their advent in the longer term and driving upper-level government structures to a lesser declining scope and background role.

On the back of BREXIT and other events, the current agitated political climate in USA further epitomises this new trend by drawing the picture of a heterogeneous patchwork of cities (or areas under their influence such as US electoral *colleges*) all pulling in antagonistic socio-cultural directions, and (de)composing what is quickly becoming a *disunited* nation.

Similar analysis could be conducted the world over. Historical analysis would also show how the alleged benefits of attempting to unite/assimilate cities into nations might be mostly inconclusive in the long term: a century of Italian disunity and chaotic political and constitutional climate being one of the case studies among many others supporting this argument.

Vice-versa, counter-analysis about smaller city-based nations such as Singapore, Netherlands, Switzerland, Iceland, Australia, New-Zealand and a few others conversely strengthen the case for *dominant smart cities*.

This forecasted geo-political shift from regional blocks, federal and national territories toward human-friendly urban hubs has direct implications on how a sound foreign policy might be constructed and carried out.

Our advice is to shift the Australian foreign policy from its current top-down **200+ Nations** scope to a distributed granular bottom-up **5,000+ world cities** one.

A few aspects should in our view be considered in relation to this revamped foreign policy:

- A foreign policy should pre-emptively establish granular grass-root relationships and strengthen its foothold at a city level everywhere, especially smaller cities which are likely to adopt smartness at an agile and faster pace than more established urban centres and megacities over which existing foreign policy units (embassies, consulates) would already operate.
- Considering the high number of world cities fitting the above-mentioned criteria (approximately 4,500 cities with a population around 150,000 or more), a light, agile and integrated representation method might be adopted to optimise budgets with a focus on innovative, shared economics and potentially self-sustaining public-private approaches.
- In the short-term, change management hurdles and resistance from national, regional, economic and other power-holders might lead to increased agitation, instability and a rise in nationalistic, coercive, belligerent, protectionist and/or isolationist politics the world over, including with conventional Western nations such as USA.
- These tensions signal intensified levels of risks to be considered by any foreign policy.
- Rather than downsized, the current diplomatic and foreign policy framework articulating around embassies and consulates should be refocussed in predominantly tackling these change management and geo-political transitional risks.

03. Supporting, influencing and shaping strategic global organisations vital to Australia's foreign policy

03.1 Which regional and global organisations matter most to us?

cloudyBoss estimates that the transition from a nation-centred to a city-focussed world might be contrived with power struggles, frictions and conflicts of interest.

cloudyBoss foresees the vital importance of a global organisation supporting a comprehensive and pervasive smart cities program. cloudyBoss is sceptical about UN (United Nations) fulfilling such a support role, considering potential conflicts of interests and ensuing reluctance arising from some or most of its funding national or federal member states. A few alternative candidacies for such an agency have emerged over the past decade, including organisations such as, to name a few:

- WEF Global Agenda Council
- Smart Cities Council
- ICLEI network

It is however cloudyBoss' opinion that:

- None of the above-mentioned current organisations seem to possess, at least at this stage, the calibre, legitimacy, aura, gravitas and ethos to carry out what is a very complex multi-dimensional mission.
- A multi-agency patchwork vs a single one might prove a resilient solution to bridge the smart city enabling gap.
- Smart cities might emerge and prevail with or without the support of any bottom-up coordinating agency.

03.2 How should we support and shape them?

DFAT might periodically host conferences, events and seminars related to smart cities.

DFAT might monitor, foster and nurture close ties with any organisations promoting, enabling and supporting smart cities.

DFAT might coordinate the permanent hosting in Australia of relevant strategic smart cities organisations with Canberra or another Australian metropole establishing relationships similar to that between UN and its de facto host New-York city.

03.3 How can we maximise our influence?

Australia might grasp an even bigger opportunity by accelerating its own transformation toward urban smartness, become a smart city leader with its own template body of policies and other foundational components tailored toward global smart cities.

One of Australia's advantages in pursuing such direction is its world-class expertise in agriculture and land conservation:

- Producing 70% more food to nourish a growing world population, while simultaneously halting biodiversity collapse, cutting greenhouse gases emission, reversing overuse of resources such as freshwater, restoring farmland back to lost biotas and protecting existing ones, will require the agricultural sector to be literally displaced from its current horizontal rural outdoors paradigm to a vertical in-doors urban one, a daunting challenge Australia could leverage to tackle its own city/outback divide.
- Such shift would create a new thriving ethical urban-based agricultural industry including exportable expert services.
- It would simultaneously boost ecotourism around major city centres via natural biotas restoration, rehabilitation, reforestation and conservation efforts that might require large-scale farmland buy-backs and/or transitional plans.
- The very nature and scale of such transitional plans might imply regulative rethink, new interpretations in the area of property rights by humans, environmental assets legal rights and their representation against humans and organizations.

- Australia is in a unique position to provide seminal grounds in this area with its co-existing opposite law interpretations:
 - A 200-years-old Victorian approach to property rights by which *humans might own the land*.
 - A set of 40,000 years-old native laws by which *the land owns the people that inhabit it*.

The scope of such a multi-faceted global smart city enabling agency might extend well beyond the above.

It would include the sharing of knowledge, data, experience, advice, support and/or capabilities about:

- The core fundamentals of smart cities (hyper-connectivity, automation, IoT/IoE technology, AI, block and shadow chains, direct democratic e-government models, abundance-based circle economics, on-demand 3/4D manufacturing, vertical in-doors farming, land buy-back programs, mobility as a service).
- Fiscal policies promoting sustainable industrial metabolism, ethical taxation on automation and artificial intelligence (80% or more) coupled with universal unconditional welfare system to neutralise crime syndicates and ultimately eradicate any type of short-termism culture.
- Direct, co-creative, localized, fast, transparent, approachable, engaging and effective e-government models and law-making framework centred on policies rather than politics, including a template body of best-practice smart city policies.
- The fight against chaotic extreme weather, earthquakes, wildfires, tsunamis, floods, plagues, pandemics and life-threatening natural resources vitiation.
- The fight against pro-armament extremism, terrorism or isolationism.
- Free and fast AI-driven court systems aligned with natural justice.

Such scope would also possibly extend to:

- Programs aimed to neutralise short-termism and foster far-horizon long-span (multiple decades) research and entrepreneurship triggering a new range of visions, goals and collaborative missions for society, thought unattainable until then such as deep space exploration, augmented life, longer life, greater levels of well-being and new artistic pursuits.
- The coordination and promotion of cryptocurrencies based on meaningful sustainable values to better serve the transactional needs and core sustainability purpose of abundance-based economics while mitigating the risks posed by the multiplication of borderless unregulated digital *fiat* money potentially falling in the hands of global crime syndicates.
- The ongoing multidimensional alternative and elaborate measurement and probity framework for effective abundance-based circle economics wealth tracking, expressed in meaningful values such as levels of well-being, happiness, natural resource expanding well beyond increasingly meaningless broken lines monetary national GDP measures.
- The granting of node permissions to each participating smart city, their respective e-government and data node, within a broad inherently secure global block or shadow chain government ecosystem.
- The setup and sharing of redundant independent network capabilities to circumvent internet single network vulnerability.
- The development of mental health programs.

04. Grasping global economic, trade and investment opportunities vital to Australia's future

04.1 What steps should be taken to maximise our trade and investment and expand commercial opportunities for Australian business?

One area where DFAT might perhaps unleash enhancement opportunities is about extending an international trade culture across all Australian industries as well as other population groups such as cities.

As Australia transitions from a mining to a dematerialised service-based economy, extending such culture to all sectors including cities would collaterally shift industry and social focus outwards and away from domestic issues rather than inwards.

For example, a sector as conventional as eldercare, employing more people than mining yet crippled by constant budget and workforce pressures, might seek opportunities to export its world-class expertise (globally top-ranked alongside North-American and New-Zealand peers) to unprepared and fast-ageing countries such as China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Japan or Singapore where traditional household structures based on fast-disappearing multi-generational dwellings are imploding.

A same logic would apply to the building industry, yet to leverage the export opportunities brought by an underused *pre-fabrication* framework (representing 2% only of the total built in Australia vs 50% in Japan and more than 95% in Scandinavia), and many other sectors still wrongly persuaded that their core craft lacks exportability.

DFAT might further encourage all industries to *lead by example* and become benchmarks/templates for others to emulate.

Far from arrogance, such cultural position would leverage Australia's difficult operational conditions: a small contained marketplace, with continent-scale challenging logistics, regularly battered and bruised by adverse environmental calamities.

In the same vein, DFAT could leverage such attributes to foster overseas investment, promoting Australia as an ideal, innovative and cost-effective testbed for new products and services: *when something works in Australia, it'll likely work anywhere else in the world; when it doesn't, testing and learning costs are naturally contained by Australian relatively small market size.*

With tourism, cloudyBoss believes that Australia would benefit from strategies to reconnect it with an eroded perception it is a *last frontier*. Such strategies should promote key Australian urban centres rather than Australia itself, in order to alleviate airport gateway pressures on Sydney and Melbourne while geographically broadening the scope of the *last frontier* narrative.

DFAT should closely monitor and directly influence matters seemingly outside its scope, such as monetary policies with a view to neutralise AU\$ dependencies, commoditisation and externalities adversely impacting Australia's foreign policy efforts.

04.2 How can we ensure Australia is positioned to take advantage of opportunities in the global economy?

Australia has a unique opportunity to reinvent its cities and tackle heads-on the most pressing planetary issues by accelerating its own *smart cities* multi-dimensional program.

Australia should fully leverage its own attributes and values to lead by example, champion and export the vast array of all derived services associated with the implementation and running of smart urban hubs to a market of 5,000 world cities.

A revamped agile and more granular foreign policy would constitute a key component to achieve these strategic goals which would collaterally mitigate other global pressing issues and geo-political instabilities.

05. Challenges, risks and responses to protect Australian global interests

cloudyBoss envisages risks and responses affecting Australia's prosperity and security would fall under the following categories:

	Risks	Possible contingencies
1	<p>Short and sharp catastrophic weather events, at odds with the common perception derived from climate mitigation timelines (typically over decades) and scientific terminology based on cautious yet misleading averages rather than limit ranges.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>a catastrophic extreme heatwave sees temperatures rise well beyond human limits or anything ever recorded. It suddenly hits an unprepared city: energy supply, cooling systems, evacuations plans and other contingencies all break down and fail. The whole city and its population are lost in a matter of hours, bringing down public trust in any other governance frameworks.</i></p>	<p>Implement locally while championing globally <i>smart cities</i> initiatives to neutralise <i>urbanisation planning failure</i>.</p> <p>Collaterally mitigate <i>climate change</i> circumventing altogether current conflictual politics/interests.</p>
2	<p>Persisting <i>broken lines</i> economics blocking or delaying sustainable <i>abundance-based</i>, circle and blue (knowledge-based) ones.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>mainstream consumerism proves incapable to evolve, reaching first a point of no-return in the irremediable destruction of the global habitat that sustains it, leading to a self-destructive "money can't buy anymore" social decay.</i></p>	<p>Accelerate the shift to sustainable abundance-based, circle and blue (knowledge-based) economics leveraging a <i>smart cities</i> strategy.</p> <p>Neutralise/terminate the <i>short-termism</i> culture.</p>
3	<p>Failure in reconciling automation against taxation, and/or adopting simplified unconditional universal welfare.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>a failure to recognise artificial intelligences as new taxable entities concentrate power in the hands of a few, accentuate economic divide away from the egalitarian Australian ethos. Highly polarised class-driven societies and neo-tyrannies re-emerge everywhere, alongside extreme poverty, slavery and unbearable despair. Civil unrests, social instabilities and/or chaos ensue.</i></p>	<p>Establish and champion new fiscal policies on automation alongside a simplified universal unconditional welfare scheme.</p> <p>Early identify private resistances to change, especially with strategic semi-public sectors such as logistics and driverless mobility, communication, smart energy grids, and others likely to intensely rely on artificial intelligence (AI) moving forward.</p> <p>If required, absorb such sectors into relevant public or public-private institutions to ensure ethical self-taxation (80% or above) and fair redistribution.</p>
4	<p>Persisting <i>fiat</i> money global framework and distorted value representations underpinning <i>broken lines</i> economics.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>the dysfunctional and prone to abuse global fiat money regime irremediably distorts economics and financial sub-systems, accentuating social divides, away from the egalitarian Australian ethos. Highly polarised class-driven societies and neo-tyrannies re-emerge everywhere, alongside extreme poverty, slavery and unbearable despair. Civil unrests, social instabilities and/or chaos ensue.</i></p>	<p>Shortcut conventional central/retail banking via helicopter strategies based on a reformed simplified universal welfare system fuelled by a radical taxation on automation and AI (80% or above).</p> <p>Champion and/or lead an eco-system of city-based sustainable, <u>non-fiat</u> cryptocurrencies redeemable against <i>true values</i>, with a view to neutralise externalities affecting both AU\$ and foreign policy.</p>
5	<p>Multiplication of unregulated borderless fiat-based cryptocurrency frameworks.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>a lack of speed in leveraging a first move strategy on cryptocurrencies result in the multiplication and dominance of unregulated cryptocurrencies in the hands of hidden economy actors. A new breed of strengthened global organised crime syndicates emerge. It fosters pervasive institutional corruption at all levels, concentrate power in the hands of a few, accentuate economic divide away from the egalitarian Australian ethos. Highly polarised class-driven societies and neo-tyrannies re-emerge everywhere, alongside extreme poverty, slavery and unbearable despair. Civil unrests, social instabilities and/or chaos ensue.</i></p>	<p>Champion and/or lead an eco-system of city-based sustainable, non-fiat, cryptocurrencies redeemable against <i>true values</i>, with a view to neutralise externalities affecting both AU\$ and foreign policy.</p> <p>Beat unregulated cryptocurrencies driven by crime syndicates at their own game with a fast first move advantage.</p>
6	<p>Break-down in law-making frameworks failing to cope with the pace of an ever-changing fast-evolving digital world, ultimately leading to social distrust in public institutions, civil unrest and/or social implosions.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>a lack of disintermediated co-creative law-making process prohibits the fast operational pace required to cope with multi-stage adaptive regulations while maintaining gaps, overlaps, inconsistencies and unwarranted legal complexity. This situation results in lagging social and economic stagnations or devastations, as well as increased risks derived from a failure to foresee uncertain outcomes associated with new technologies. Civil unrests, social instabilities, higher levels of reliance in shadow economics, crime syndicates and/or chaos ensue.</i></p>	<p>Implement locally while championing and strengthening globally <i>smart cities</i> initiatives based on proven co-creative direct democratic models including an unbiased AI-assisted law-making framework.</p>



	Risks	Possible contingencies
7	<p>Break-down in justice systems crippled by deteriorating caseload clearance rates compromising jurisprudence and worsening negative sentiment from litigants seeking ever-elusive courts' alignment with natural justice.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>caseloads rise to unsustainable breaking-point levels, which coupled with prohibitive legal representation costs, and legislative gaps create a systemic discriminative court culture against smaller litigants, promote legal cartelisation and corrupted justice systems. Social distrust in public institutions, civil unrests, social instabilities, higher reliance in crime syndicates and chaos ensue.</i></p>	<p>Implement locally while championing globally <i>smart cities</i> initiatives including an unbiased AI-assisted legal advice and justice system able to reduce operational costs alongside other benefits such as shorter proceedings, free access to legal systems, alignment between court and natural justice.</p> <p>In parallel with prevention, litigation avoidance, out-of-court settlements and conflict resolutions strategies, provide additional constructive inputs into an upper-level co-creative law-making process.</p>
8	<p>Failure in ensuring high quality standards in automated and AI systems resulting in systemic failures of magnitude.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>smarter cities in the near future fully rely on automated driverless mobility networks for both goods logistics and personal transportation. After a long period of time, an unforeseen quality flaw emerges in the system controlling these networks, resulting in a complete breakdown in logistics and the supply of vital goods or services with potential loss of life.</i></p>	<p>Revise intellectual property regulations. Adopt and champion enhanced royalty-based code ownership operational frameworks (similarly to the music or publishing industries) vs conventional ghost-writing intrinsically flawed software oligopolies or risk-prone open-source frameworks as a way to neutralise pervasive code quality issues.</p>
9	<p>Increase in cyber-crimes and cyber-wars.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>conventional power-holders and recalcitrant short-termism actors understand that hyper-connectivity is a threat to their power-grabbing. They aim to disrupt it in order to hold on to their power, or threaten to disrupt the digital economy for more power grab leveraging and fuelling a cyber-defence argument.</i></p>	<p>Neutralise and eradicate short-termism culture underpinning power-grab or power-holding ones via abundance-based economics and unconditional universal welfare system.</p> <p>Champion intrinsically secure block-chain ecosystems and networks redundancy (parallel multi-tier or peer-to-peer multi-nets vs single internet).</p>
10	<p>Nuclear threats and incidents posed by an increasingly uncontrollable 10,000+ heads stockpile combined with the chaotic behaviour of rogue actors, fast-decaying destabilised nuclear nations and regions subject to social tensions and/or implosions.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>conventional power-holders and recalcitrant short-termism actors understand that peaceful and thriving democratic societies are a threat to their power-holding. They aim to destroy or destabilise them in order to expand their power, threaten disruption by orchestrating one or more nuclear incidents with a view to either dominate or maintain a tense cold war oligopoly in the longer term.</i></p>	<p>Champion a redefined and elevated role for defence, away from human-based peer confrontation, toward a higher mission to protect biodiversity as a whole (including humans) against environmental degradation and unpredictable elements.</p> <p>Rein in and repurpose the conventional arm sector. Eradicate the personal conventional weapon culture.</p> <p>Implement a nuclear stockpile recycling plan which value chain would include countries heavily relying on nuclear energy generation such as France.</p>
11	<p>Socio-cultural lunacy and/or mental health issues resulting in power-seeking attitude, short-termism, egocentrism, egoism, extremism, terrorism and other socially destabilising or irresponsible activities, ultimately triggering chaos, refugee crisis and/or massive population displacements.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>the current worldwide terrorist landscape provides a variety of examples illustrating these situations.</i></p>	<p>Implement locally while champion globally thriving <i>smart cities</i> able to tackle root causes.</p> <p>Develop effective mental health programs and champion them worldwide to neutralise socio-cultural and individual pre-conditions.</p> <p>Early identify, narrow-target, swiftly, pre-emptively and surgically remove, terminate or neutralise existing terror actors/supporters.</p>
12	<p>Unsustainable refugee crisis and/or massive population displacements.</p> <p>Hypothetical scenario: <i>the current worldwide refugee crisis provides a small glimpse of potentially more acute situations that might arise from more sudden and brutal environmental population displacements in future.</i></p>	<p>Tone down or abandon the <i>stopping boats</i> and/or <i>protecting borders</i> increasingly irrelevant narratives.</p> <p>Develop a smart city fast (re)construction body of expertise (a task arguably undertaken by a revamped defence sector alongside other responsibilities).</p> <p>Leverage population relocation opportunities to first bridge priority workforce gaps in Australia, but also capture international aid/funding to (re)establish, support and nurture ongoing relationships with new free, liveable, sustainable and thriving smart cities built from the ground up anywhere worldwide.</p>

05. Assets and capabilities to pursue Australian global interests

05.1 What assets will we need to advance our foreign policy interests in future years?

On the diplomatic, trade and investment fronts, a granular approach targeted to 5,000+ cities rather than 200+ nations implies a network of local representations wider and more pervasive than Australia's pool of embassies and consulates. A light, agile and integrated deployment model based on innovative, shared economics and potentially self-sustaining public-private approaches should be considered to materialise such expansion while maintaining a strict fiscal and budgetary discipline.

On the military front, refocussing Australian defence on a *larger than life* mission to protect biodiversity at large (including humans) against environmental degradation and increasingly unpredictable elements would better fit an Australian ethos which avoids glorifying human wars or peer confrontations. A derived asset strategy could translate to less *fighter jets* or *submarines* and more *Ocean Shields*, *fire bombers* and other capabilities designed for a radically different type of enmity.

On the intelligence front, integrated and inherently resilient *blockchain*-based collaboration, messaging and data sharing tools, AI-driven and IoT monitoring would boost international efforts to early detect and eradicate threats prior they materialise.

05.2 How can we best use our people and our assets to advance Australia's economic, security and other interests and respond to external events?

Innovative, shared economics and public-private approaches might be sought to pervasively deploy a global Australian representation across 5,000+ smart cities. A public-private approach could leverage relationships with non-Australian governments pursuing similar city-centred foreign policies as well as non-profit organisations, businesses and universities.

The relationship between DFAT and academia at home and overseas via its wide range of international programs is indeed an interesting one that might be revisited in the context of a fast evolving knowledge-based society. The definition, mission and modus operandi of universities, which have been a debated and ever-evolving topic for the past millennia, is set to be turned on its head yet again following recent initiatives in:

- South-Korea with its dedicated independent ministry for the knowledge economy, the only one of its kind in the world,
- San Francisco and its fee-free college initiative embracing the social advancement opportunities with blue economics,
- Finland and its education system deeply challenging how knowledge should be imparted to younger generations,
- Netherlands with its university-eldercare integration providing free student accommodation for social work,
- Poland where universities merged their schools into integrated start-up accelerators for students.

DFAT could leverage its relationship strengths in this area (via its wide range of international programs) to further contribute to the discussions and foster a much higher mission for universities, more attuned to a *smart city* and *blue economy* context.

Existing diplomatic resources within consulates and embassies might be refocussed and play an essential relationship management, championing change with national, regional, economic and other power-holders with a view to mitigate and neutralise any agitation, instability and potential rises in nationalistic, coercive, belligerent, protectionist/isolationist policies.

An elevated new mission for defence away from conventional peer confrontations would imply wide-range international unity against a common non-human enemy. Integration with other domestic and overseas forces such as emergency teams, fire brigades, scientific research teams and contingency units would likely occur to prevail in a world conflict against the elements.

In addition to sophisticated monitoring capabilities, a similar international collaboration and integration with local police forces, mental health and prevention programs would enable intelligence and secret services to identify earlier, narrow-target and neutralise isolated threats such as terrorists, lone wolves and rogue dictators.