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| |  | | --- | | Each week, some of our Councillors and interns share a selection of articles, analytical pieces, videos and podcasts about what is happening in the world of international affairs. This week, they consider the launch of Australia's Strategic Review, reflect on the political crisis in Sri Lanka and contemplate the debate surrounding the AUKUS agreement and submarines.   Disclaimer: The views expressed below by Councillors and interns are their own. The Australian Institute of International Affairs New South Wales does not take policy positions. | |

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| |  | | --- | |  | | [The Launch of the Strategic Review](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=ac2d03cdef&e=84738c8dae) A public, non-classified version of the defence strategy review carried out by former foreign minister and defence minister Stephen Smith and former defence chief Angus Houston was released to the public on the eve of Anzac Day.  This is a major foreign policy document and will be thoroughly analysed and commented on over the weeks to come.  As the Prime Minister’s 24th April [**press release**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=5adbab19c5&e=84738c8dae) stated, “Realising the ambition of the Review will require a whole-of-government effort, coupled with a significant financial commitment and major reform.”  A classified version of the Review has been circulating since February in the public service. Even before the release of the public version, significant parts had been made public.  Nicholas Whitwell in Australian Outlook provided a useful [**summary**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=e897f29cbd&e=84738c8dae) of what to expect, and it appears his points were accurate.    There will be some immediate consequences, as well as long-term plans such as the acquisition of nuclear-powered submarines.  Some defence programs will be suspended in order to prioritise others.  The financing of these will cause belt-tightening in other areas of government spending.  More information about this will appear in next month’s Budget.   In the meantime, Ben Doherty of The Guardian has an insightful [**commentary**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=1900c68024&e=84738c8dae) on the hostile reaction to the Review that is expected from China (quoting me among other sources).    Image credit: [**US Navy**](https://internationalaffairs.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0e9feb1606f1b4129a8b65828&id=e5a452ca87&e=84738c8dae) | |

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