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MEDIA ALERT

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Pentagon report says Australia may make itself a 'fortress' against climate refugees

A leaked report commissioned by the Pentagon argues that Australia and the United States "are likely to build defensive fortresses around their countries" to protect their resources from desperate outsiders and aggressive states created by rapid and unpredictable climate change.

Titled *An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security*, the report reflects growing concern among defence and intelligence experts about the implications for global security likely to arise from changes to the world's climate systems.

The report strengthens the case that climate change represents a greater threat to the world than terrorism.

The Pentagon report has erred in one crucial respect. Australia may be able to turn itself into a fortress to protect our resources from desperate outsiders, but those walls will not protect Australians from the effects of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has confirmed that Australia will be one of the worst affected by changes in weather patterns.

It is not known whether the Australian Government has asked its defence and intelligence agencies to assess the security threats posed by climate change, but the Pentagon report paints an alarming picture of potential destabilisation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Pentagon Report may be read under 'What's New' on the Australia Institute website

www.tai.org.au