

Letters Ed
The Australian
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Dear Sir

At the discussions between the French Premier and the US President in Washington, Hollande was reportedly told “we are all French” and that the US would “scale up” its strikes against ISIS (“Hollande and Obama ready to intensify air campaign against ISIS”, 26/11). While both are said to still rule out putting troops on the ground, a report published in the US indicates that some of Obama’s closest supporters are urging him to do more than increase air strikes and that Hollande may also have done so.

Former defense secretary Panetta has said that “doing more to stop ISIS is urgent” because “they are a clear and present danger not only to Europe, but this country as well” and Feinstein (a Democrat member of the Senate Intelligence Committee) declared that Obama’s approach is not sufficient and “we need to be more aggressive”. Former undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, Vickers, has urged major adjustments to the current strategy and Presidential candidate Clinton indicated support for Feinstein.

How Obama will respond to these developments remains to be seen. But it is clear that Australia would not be remiss if it indicated support for more troops on the ground and a preparedness to participate in such action.

Yours faithfully

Des Moore, South Yarra
Former board member, Australian Strategic Policy Institute