

## Abstraksi

Indonesia dan Australia merupakan negara bertetangga dengan posisi dan peran strategis di kawasan Indo-Pasifik. Karakteristik hubungan bilateral yang fluktuatif kerap menghambat terjalannya kerja sama keamanan yang kokoh dan tahan lama. Namun, kehadiran Cina dengan kekuatan dan ambisi yang besar dalam sengketa Laut Cina Selatan (LCS) memunculkan kekhawatiran di Jakarta dan Canberra, sebagai sesama kekuatan tengah di kawasan yang memiliki kepentingan di LCS. Untuk itu, menjadi penting bagi kedua negara untuk berkolaborasi dalam menciptakan kawasan yang stabil dan menjunjung tinggi kekuatan hukum, khususnya melalui kerja sama keamanan maritim. Hal ini dapat dilihat melalui maraknya dialog dan kerja sama keamanan maritim selama tahun 2016 hingga 2018, seperti dalam Joint Declaration dan Plan of Action on Maritime Cooperation serta Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Pola aliansi kedua negara mengimbangi Cina dianalisis menggunakan teori *balance of threat* oleh Stephen Walt.

**Kata kunci:** Indonesia, Australia, Cina, Laut Cina Selatan, *balance of threat*, keamanan maritim.

## Abstract

*Indonesia and Australia are neighboring states with strategic roles and positions in the Indo-Pacific region. The fluctuating characteristics of their bilateral relation have significantly hampered the efforts to establish a robust and long-standing security cooperation. However, the presence of China with its great power and ambition in the South China Sea (SCS) dispute has awakened a sense of alertness in Jakarta and Canberra, who are both middle powers in the region with interests in the SCS. Therefore, it then becomes imperative for both states to collaborate in creating a stable region that upholds rules-based order, especially through maritime security cooperation. This is manifested in the rise of dialogues and bilateral cooperation in maritime security during the period from 2016 to 2018, as evident in the Joint Declaration and Plan of Action on Maritime Cooperation and the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The pattern of alliance formation between the two states to balance China is analyzed using Stephen Walt's balance of threat theory.*

**Keywords:** *Indonesia, Australia, China, South China Sea, balance of threat, maritime security.*