



# HOW RUSSIAN-ORIGIN FUEL IS ENTERING AUSTRALIA

And What Must Be Done to Stop It

Updated 16/01/2026

[www.stopfuellingrussiaswar.com](http://www.stopfuellingrussiaswar.com)

## THE PROBLEM

Australia's current sanctions **prohibit** the importation, purchase, or transport of goods exported from or originating in Russia - including crude oil, refined petroleum, natural gas, and coal.

Yet Russian crude oil continues to enter Australia through a major **sanctions loophole** which allows it to be refined in third countries - then sold as fuel here.

This process effectively **launders Russian crude**, letting it bypass sanctions and reach Australian consumers and industries in ever-greater quantities.

## HOW IT WORKS



## THE SCALE OF THE ISSUE

According to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA):

- Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine through November 2025, Australian companies purchased AUD\$24.7 billion of oil products from refineries in India, China and Brunei that process Russian crude.
- An estimated AUD\$7.5 billion (USD \$5 billion) of these imports were refined from Russian crude. In the third year of Russia's full-scale invasion, Australia was the **single biggest importer** of oil products from Indian refineries using Russian crude.
- These purchases have generated **more than AUD\$2.5 billion** in tax revenues for the Kremlin - **exceeding Australia's total aid to Ukraine** (AUD\$1.7 billion as at January 2026).

## WHY IT MATTERS

Every day that Australian petrol dollars flow to the Kremlin, our values are compromised. By enabling Russia to launder its crude oil, we help to:

- **Fuel the Russian war machine** and its genocidal war against Ukraine
- **Prop up Russia's economy**, which derives between 30-50% of its federal budget revenue from oil and gas
- **Undermine global and Australian sanctions** aimed at cutting off the Kremlin's capacity to wage its war.

This financial pipeline doesn't just violate our principles - **it prolongs the suffering, death, and destruction in Ukraine.**



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS



STOP FUELLING  
RUSSIA'S WAR

[www.stopfuellingrussiaswar.com](http://www.stopfuellingrussiaswar.com)

# HOW OUR ALLIES ARE CRACKING DOWN ON RUSSIA'S OIL TRADE

- **EU Ban:** From Jan 2026, the EU will ban refined fuel derived from Russian crude in third countries.
- **US Tariffs:** President Trump has threatened to impose an additional 25% tariff on Indian goods over India's trade in Russian oil. A bipartisan US bill seeks to impose even further sanctions and tariffs on goods from countries buying Russian oil and gas.

---

## AUSTRALIANS WANT ACTION

The **2025 Lowy Institute Poll** shows that **84%** of Australians support maintaining **strict sanctions on Russia** - a clear message the public firmly rejects financing the Kremlin's aggression.

Yet current sanctions allow Russian crude, once refined in another country, to enter Australia disguised as 'non-Russian'.

We **wouldn't accept goods made with slave labour** - so why tolerate fuel made with Russian crude?

---

## WHAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST DO

To uphold Australia's values and oppose Russia's war against Ukraine, the Government must:

- **Ban fuel from refineries using Russian crude**
- Require **full supply chain disclosure** for all fuel imports
- Impose **tough penalties** on offenders
- **Follow our allies** in shutting every route the Kremlin uses to fund its war

---

## WHAT COMPANIES MUST DO

Major fuel importers - including BP, ExxonMobil, and Ampol - must ensure their supply chains uphold Australian sanctions and values by:

- Working with the Government on a **sanctions-aligned regulatory framework**
- Requiring **verified documentation** of crude oil origins
- Supporting robust **tracking and labelling** to ensure fuel is Russian-crude free
- Sourcing only from refineries that **do not use Russian crude**

Only ~ **10% of Australia's fuel imports** come from refineries using Russian oil - up from around 1% before Russia's full-scale invasion. Cutting these ties is both doable and necessary.

