



HOW RUSSIAN-ORIGIN FUEL IS ENTERING AUSTRALIA

And What Must Be Done to Stop It

Updated 16/01/2026

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
RUSSIAS WAR

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.

