

Paul Papalia warns WA businesses ‘should be alert to the threat’ of buying Russian goods

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Minister Paul Papalia issued a warning on Tuesday, saying Russia will try to get around sanctions placed on its goods.

Paul Papalia has warned Australians to be careful of accidentally buying Russian goods which are being imported to Australia through “sneaky” means to avoid sanctions.

Oil tanker Seferis — which sails under the Greek flag — was anchored off the coast of Perth on Tuesday afternoon and is reportedly carrying oil from the Indian Jamnagar refinery.

It is believed the crude oil onboard comes from Russia but was processed in India — which does not have a sanction on Russian oil.

It is understood diesel oil from the ship is set for bowsers around the State.

The Minister for Defence Industries issued a warning on Tuesday, saying Russia will try to get around sanctions placed on its goods.

“I’d make the observation that I think, personally everyone in the western world should be alert to the threat of Russia getting around sanctions and getting its oil to market and getting funds for fighting a war in the Ukraine, by sneaky means,” Mr Papalia said.

“We should be alert to that.”

Australia has placed sanctions on Russian oil, preventing the importing of any oil refined petroleum products, natural gas, coal and other energy products.

It is also prohibited to buy weapons, any goods originating from the Ukraine region and gold from Russia.

Mr Papalia said he believed Russia were using third parties to sell their goods and fund the war effort.

“I would just be concerned that people buying oil for import to Australia or anywhere else around the world should be alert to the threat that Russia may use third parties or third countries as an intermediary to avoid the sanctions that are imposed on them for a reason,” he said.