



AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS  
СОЮЗ УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ОРГАНІЗАЦІЙ АВСТРАЛІЇ

Representing 22 Peak Ukrainian Organisations in Australia  
Member of Ukrainian World Congress

Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson  
Chair  
Senate Standing References Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Via email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

**Subject: Senate inquiry into the “Effectiveness of sanctions against the Russian Federation”**

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Senate Standing References Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade (FADT) as it inquires into the effectiveness of sanctions against the Russian Federation.

By way of background, the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) is a peak body for 22 national community organisations including state community organisations, churches, youth and women's organisations, credit co-operative, chamber of commerce, educational and language organisations, among others. The AFUO is widely regarded as the representative voice on matters concerning the Ukrainian community in Australia.

Australia's humanitarian, military, and diplomatic assistance has provided vital help during Ukraine's darkest hours and has been a powerful demonstration of solidarity with the Ukrainian people. This support not only saves lives, but also reinforces the shared values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law that unite our nations.

While the Ukrainian community is deeply grateful for Australia's support to date, a critical contradiction now exists in Australia's foreign policy. On the one hand, the Australian Government supports Ukraine's fight for freedom and democracy by providing military and humanitarian aid, while on the other hand, a loophole in the current sanctions regime has made Australia the single largest importer of refined Russian crude oil in the world. By importing this blood oil from third countries, Australia is transferring significantly more money to Moscow (estimated to be over \$2.4 billion) than it is providing to Kyiv in direct support (\$1.7 billion).

Our submission identifies this major policy gap as well as other structural issues in Australia's sanctions framework and sets out targeted recommendations to close the refined-fuel loophole and align Australia's approach with the strongest international standards. For Ukrainians and Ukrainian-Australians, ensuring Australia's sanctions against Russia are effective is essential to supporting Ukraine's resistance, deterring future aggression, and safeguarding Australia's national security interests.

The AFUO would welcome the opportunity to appear before the Committee at public hearings to provide further evidence and assist the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Kateryna Argyrou  
Chair  
Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO)

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Closing the Backdoor: Ending Australia's Funding of Russia's War Machine**

#### **Australia's Support for Ukraine**

Since February 2022, the Australian Government has committed approximately AUD \$1.7 billion in military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. This support has been critical in sustaining Ukraine's defense, providing humanitarian relief, and demonstrating Australia's solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

#### **The funding contradiction**

While providing direct support to Ukraine, Australia has simultaneously enabled far greater financial flows to the Russian state through imports of fuel derived from Russian crude oil refined in third countries. In effect, Australia is sending more money to Moscow than to Kyiv.

According to analysis by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), between the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and November 2025, Australia imported approximately USD \$16.5 billion (AUD ~\$24.7 billion) worth of refined petroleum products from refineries in countries including India, China and Brunei that process Russian crude oil. These imports generated an estimated USD \$1.7 billion (AUD ~\$2.45 billion) in direct tax revenue for the Kremlin. This revenue directly supports Russia's war economy, sustaining its ability to wage war against Ukraine and to carry out attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

#### **The mechanism of the loophole**

This outcome is enabled by a structural loophole in Australia's sanctions framework. Although Australian sanctions prohibit the import of goods originating in Russia, Russian crude oil is imported into refineries in third countries under one customs classification, refined, and then exported under a different customs code as a petroleum product. Under prevailing trade rules, this refining process constitutes a "substantial transformation," conferring a new country of origin and rendering the fuel legally non-Russian for sanctions purposes. This mechanism effectively launders Russian crude through so-called "laundromat refineries," allowing Australian fuel importers to comply with the letter of the law while undermining the intent of sanctions against Russia.

#### **The consequences**

Since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion, Australia has become the world's largest single-country importer of oil products refined from Russian crude oil, making Australian consumers and industries an indirect but material source of financing for Russia's daily war crimes. Oil and gas remain the Kremlin's primary revenue base, accounting for approximately 30–50% of GDP<sup>1</sup>. In 2025, Russia allocated 44% of federal tax revenues and 39% of total spending to its war effort—both record highs. Military spending reached 11.85 trillion rubles (USD \$149 billion) in the first nine months of 2025, consuming \$24 million per hour<sup>2</sup>. Each import of refined petroleum derived from Russian crude contributes to sustaining Russia's war machine.

#### **Australia in the international context**

Australia is now an outlier among its closest partners. The European Union in its 18th sanctions package and the United Kingdom have enacted bans on imports of refined petroleum products processed from Russian crude in third countries, while the United States continues to expand sanctions on Russia's energy sector. Australia's failure to take action risks turning the country into a dumping ground for blood oil that is illegal in comparable jurisdictions.

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<sup>1</sup> Vitaly Yermakov, 'Follow the Money: Understanding Russia's Oil and Gas Revenues' (Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, 4 March 2024) <<https://www.oxfordenergy.org/publications/follow-the-money-understanding-russias-oil-and-gas-revenues/>>.

<sup>2</sup> Defense Express, 'Russia's Military Spending Has Increased Almost Fourfold Since 2021 – Ukraine's Intelligence' (17 December 2025) <[https://en.defence-ua.com/analysis/russias\\_military\\_spending\\_has\\_increased\\_almost\\_fourfold\\_since\\_2021\\_ukraines\\_intelligence-16843.html](https://en.defence-ua.com/analysis/russias_military_spending_has_increased_almost_fourfold_since_2021_ukraines_intelligence-16843.html)>

## Recommendations

In addition to closing the refining loophole and aligning Australia's sanctions with international partners, the AFUO highlights additional critical areas for reform, including: addressing frozen Russian assets, preventing Australian investment from indirectly enabling sanctioned trade, and tackling international avenues of sanctions circumvention such as flags of convenience. Together, these recommendations aim to restore the integrity and effectiveness of Australia's sanctions regime and ensure Australia does not inadvertently fund Russia's war machine.

1. **Close the refining loophole immediately**  
Amend the definition of "import sanctioned goods" to include refined petroleum products derived from Russian crude oil, regardless of the country in which refining or "substantial transformation" occurs.
2. **Safeguard Defence fuel procurement from sanctioned supply chains**  
Audit the Viva Energy Defence fuel contract to assess ADF exposure to refined products derived from Russian crude; mandate independently verifiable Certificates of Origin for all Commonwealth fuel suppliers; and require Defence fuel contracts to include enforceable supply-chain transparency and sanctions-compliance provisions.
3. **Harmonise sanctions with international partners**  
Align Australia's import restrictions with those enacted by the United Kingdom and the European Union to ensure consistency among allied sanctions regimes.
4. **Mandate supply-chain transparency**  
Require fuel importers to provide enforceable Certificates of Origin demonstrating that imported petroleum products are free from Russian geological origin, with the burden of proof placed on the importer.
5. **Strengthen sanctions monitoring and enforcement**  
Establish and fund a dedicated Sanctions Monitoring and Compliance Unit with a mandate to report annually to Parliament on enforcement activity, compliance outcomes, investigations, and progress in closing sanctions loopholes.
6. **Address international avenues of sanctions evasion: Flags of Convenience**  
The Australian Government should engage with Pacific Island governments and other relevant international partners to discourage the provision of flags of convenience to Russian oil tankers.
7. **Address frozen Russian assets**
  - a. Publicly confirm the quantum and nature of Russian sovereign assets frozen in Australia;
  - b. Review and update legislative and policy frameworks to enable the seizure, liquidation, and redeployment of sanctioned Russian assets — including central bank assets — for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction;
  - c. Ensure continued pursuit of assets held by sanctioned Russian oligarchs and enablers of the invasion, consistent with recent Federal Court decisions.
8. **Prevent Australian investment from enabling sanctioned trade**
  - a. Require the Future Fund to divest from Reliance Industries due to its role in refining Russian crude;
  - b. Mandate enhanced due diligence by superannuation funds on investments linked to sanctioned states and require divestment where assets materially enable sanctioned trade, even indirectly;
  - c. Establish clear federal investment guidelines prohibiting passive exposure of public funds to sanctioned-state assets or companies engaging in trade with sanctioned countries

Australia cannot credibly support Ukraine while continuing to help finance Russia's war.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations (AFUO) is the peak body for 22 national community organisations throughout Australia. It is widely regarded as the representative voice of the country's Ukrainian community, which numbers around 60,000 people.

Member organisations include state community organisations, churches, youth and women's organisations, credit co-operative, chamber of commerce, educational, language and other organisations. The Board comprises executive members who represent key facets of community life in Australia. The AFUO is a member of the Ukrainian World Congress, the peak body for Ukrainian organisations in the diaspora.

Over the past four years, the Australian-Ukrainian community, together with the wider Australian public, has raised approximately \$24 million to support Ukraine, through fundraising events, bake sales, concerts, film screenings, galas, and donations. Since 2015, the AFUO has managed the Ukraine Crisis Appeal (UCA) in partnership with Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) as well as Future Ukraine, a DGR-registered charity - raising approximately \$21 million in humanitarian aid for Ukraine. The AFUO also leads the Defend Ukraine Appeal (DUA), Australia's largest community-run fundraising effort for life-saving aid for Ukrainian defenders, which has raised approximately \$3 million.

However, a loophole in Australia's oil sanctions allows Russian-origin fuel to enter the country. It is estimated that a single tanker of refined Russian-linked fuel landing in Australia can generate between \$6-\$22 million in revenue for the Kremlin. Thousands of volunteers can work for 1,000 days to raise what one flawed government policy can undo in 24 hours.

Representing the voice of Australian-Ukrainians, the AFUO feels most keenly the pain and frustration of community members as they see solutions that could be implemented remain unacted upon. Many Australian-Ukrainians feel complicit in the destruction of their homeland every time they fill up their car. On oil and resources sanctions in particular, they feel actively involved as unwilling participants in funding the aggressor. As one community member said: *"We are model citizens. We work, we pay taxes, we volunteer. But our government has left a backdoor open that turns our petrol money into Russian missiles."*

## **Terms of Reference - (a) (i) the scope of sanctions imposed by the Commonwealth against the Russian Federation**

### **The blood oil sanctions loophole**

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

Despite these prohibitions, Russian crude oil continues to enter Australia through a significant sanctions loophole rooted in customs classification and rules of origin. Russian crude is imported into refineries in non-sanctioning, third countries under one Harmonised System (HS) customs code and, following refining, exits under a different HS code as a petroleum product. Under prevailing trade rules, this refining process is deemed a "substantial transformation," conferring a new country of origin on the product. As a result, the fuel is legally reclassified as non-Russian, enabling it to be imported into Australia in compliance with sanctions, even as the Kremlin continues to receive tax revenue from the original crude oil sale.

### **The scale of the loophole and how it fuels Russia's war revenues**

According to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), from the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine until the end of November 2025, Australian companies purchased \$24.7 billion (USD \$16.5) in oil products from refineries in India, China and Brunei that process Russian crude. An estimated \$7.5 billion (USD \$5 billion) of this total is refined from Russian crude. In 2025 alone, Australian imports from these refineries totaled around \$6.6 billion (USD \$4.4 billion), of which \$2.7 billion (USD \$1.8 billion) is estimated to be refined from Russian crude. Shockingly, the scale of this trade led to Australia being the largest single importer of refined Russian crude in the world in the third year of the invasion. In December 2025 alone,

exports from third party refineries rose by 9%, predominantly from the Jamnagar refinery in India and the Hengyi refinery in Brunei.<sup>3</sup>

As noted above, because these oil products are refined from Russian crude, every purchase directly contributes to revenues flowing to the Russian state. Australian imports from these refineries are estimated to have generated more than \$2.45 billion (USD \$1.7 billion) in tax revenues for the Kremlin<sup>4</sup> – exceeding the \$1.7 billion<sup>5</sup> that has been provided to Ukraine. In effect, Australian motorists are unwittingly sending more money to Russia than Australia provides in support to Ukraine.

These funds are used by the Russian state to build and sustain weaponry that continues to target Ukrainian cities, towns and villages, killing Ukrainian women, children and men. Children like four-year-old Liza Dimitrieva, burned alive in Vinnytsia by a cruise missile fired from a Russian battleship in the Black Sea; and three-year-old Arina Antipenko, who was buried in a basement when Russian bombs collapsed five floors of her apartment block in Mariupol. As highlighted in the *Sydney Morning Herald's* landmark “Blood Oil” series on Australia’s oil sanctions loophole, even less than half of Australia’s aid to Ukraine (\$1 billion) could buy more than 18,000 Shahed drones, 666 Kalibr missiles or 43 Pantsir launchers – weapons regularly used in attacks on Ukrainian cities and civilians.<sup>6</sup>

Independent WA Senator Fatima Payman raised this concern in the Senate, stating: “West Australians need to be sure that when they’re pulling the trigger at the bowser, they aren’t helping to pull triggers in Ukraine.”<sup>7</sup>

**Recommendation: Close the refining loophole immediately and amend the definition of “import sanctioned goods” to include refined petroleum products derived from Russian crude oil, regardless of the country in which refining or “substantial transformation” occurs.**

### Australian Defence Force fuel supply chain

The blood oil loophole extends to the heart of Australia's national security apparatus.

On 30 June 2023, the Department of Defence awarded Viva Energy a contract valued at approximately \$450 million per year to supply fuel to the ADF<sup>8</sup>. The contract runs for an initial six years, extendable to twelve, covering all Defence Fuel installations nationally, RMAF Butterworth, and commercial airports and ports globally. Viva Energy's Geelong Refinery produces F-44 military aviation fuel for the ADF under this contract.

Since January 2024, Viva Energy and its supplier Vitol have imported as much as 400,000 tonnes of refined fuel from Indian refineries, including Reliance Industries' Jamnagar facility, where Russian crude comprises approximately 50–55% of feedstock<sup>9</sup>. When pressed by the Australian Financial Review in October 2025, Viva Energy could not guarantee that Russian crude refined in India was not being used to fulfil the Defence contract.

The implications are stark. Australian taxpayers may be funding both sides of Russia’s war on Ukraine: providing military equipment to help Ukraine defend itself, while paying for fuel that generates revenue for the Russian state — revenue that finances the weapons used to destroy Australian-supplied materiel on the battlefield. As retired Major General John Cantwell, former commander of Australian forces in Afghanistan, stated in October 2025, he would be “dismayed if the military was using Russian oil.” The situation, he said, “just smells.”<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, Submission No 5 to Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Parliament of Australia, *Effectiveness of sanctions against the Russian Federation* (13 November 2025) [Submissions – Parliament of Australia](#)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Defence Ministers Joint Media Release: Australia stands with NATO partners in support of Ukraine (4 December 2025) <https://www.minister.defence.gov.au/media-releases/2025-12-04/australia-stands-nato-partners-support-ukraine>

<sup>6</sup> Eryk Bagshaw, ‘Australians have paid \$2 billion to help fund Putin’s bloody war. Here’s what that can buy’ (The Sydney Morning Herald, 21 November 2025)

<sup>7</sup> AFUO, ‘Senator Fatima Payman raises the issue of Russian oil in the Senate’ (31 July 2025) [afuo.org.au/media/in-the-news](https://afuo.org.au/media/in-the-news)

<sup>8</sup> Viva Energy, ‘Viva Energy secures Australia Defence Force Fuel Supply Contract’ (Media Release, 30 June 2023) [vivaenergy.com.au/media/news/2023/viva-energy-secures-australia-defence-force-fuel-supply-contract](https://vivaenergy.com.au/media/news/2023/viva-energy-secures-australia-defence-force-fuel-supply-contract); Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Pat Conroy MP, ‘Government announces multi-billion defence fuel security contract’ (Media Release, 30 June 2023).

<sup>9</sup> Michael Read, ‘Labor weighs further sanctions on Russian oil’ (Australian Financial Review, 24 October 2025) citing trade data from Kpler [afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/labor-weighs-further-sanctions-on-russian-oil-20251024-p5n4zm](https://afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/labor-weighs-further-sanctions-on-russian-oil-20251024-p5n4zm)

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

There is no public evidence that Defence assessed the risk of Russian-origin crude entering the ADF fuel supply chain when awarding this contract, nor that the contract requires Viva Energy to certify the origin of its crude feedstock. Viva Energy's inability to provide such a guarantee confirms that adequate supply chain assurance mechanisms either do not exist or have failed.

**Recommendation:**

- **Conduct an immediate audit of the Viva Energy Defence fuel contract to determine the extent of ADF exposure to Russian-origin crude oil;**
- **Amend Commonwealth procurement guidelines to require all fuel suppliers to Commonwealth entities to provide independently verifiable Certificates of Origin demonstrating supply chains are free of Russian-origin crude; and**
- **Ensure current and future Defence fuel contracts include enforceable provisions requiring supply chain transparency and compliance with the intent of Australia's sanctions regime.**

**Actions by key international partners to close sanctions loopholes**

The European Union addressed the refining loophole through its 18th sanctions package in July 2025, which announced that from 21 January 2026, it would be prohibited to import petroleum products derived from Russian crude, irrespective of the country of refinement.<sup>11</sup> This measure directly targeted the practice of routing Russian crude through third-country refineries to circumvent sanctions.

The United Kingdom introduced equivalent restrictions on 15 October 2025, to prevent oil products refined in third countries from Russian-origin crude oil from entering its market<sup>12</sup>, aligning its sanctions framework with the European Union.

The United States has complemented these measures by imposing sanctions on Russian energy companies and vessels associated with the shadow fleet, and by engaging diplomatically and economically with third countries, including India, to reduce imports of Russian crude and limit onward exports of Russian-derived products.

Collectively, these actions establish a clear international precedent for treating refined products derived from Russian crude as sanctioned goods and demonstrate a coordinated approach to closing a widely exploited loophole.

Australia is now out of step with its closest partners.

**Recommendation: The Australian Government should harmonise its sanctions with international partners by aligning import restrictions with those enacted by the European Union and the United Kingdom, ensuring consistency among allied sanctions regimes.**

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<sup>11</sup> Council Decision (CFSP) 2025/1495 of 18 July 2025 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, 18 July 2025 <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2025/1495>

<sup>12</sup> Press release 'Huge blow for Putin's war machine as UK sanctions Russian oil', [Gov.UK](#) website, 15 July 2025 [Huge blow for Putin's war machine as UK sanctions Russian oil - GOV.UK](#)

## Addressing Government feedback - Tracking refined fuels

The Australian Foreign Minister, Penny Wong, has noted that “the mechanisms we would need to track and monitor all energy products via third countries are not in place.”

The AFUO’s position is that tracking and monitoring are both feasible and demonstrably practical. Research conducted by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), combined with publicly available information, has shown it is possible to identify international tankers arriving at Australian ports — including Port Botany, Kwinana, and Geelong — carrying refined fuels produced from refineries using up to 55% Russian crude feedstock.

CREA’s tracking methodology using ship movement data, refinery production reports, and trade flow analysis demonstrates these oil flows can be accurately tracked and attributed, proving enforcement of origin-based restrictions is feasible.<sup>13</sup> Other reputable institutions, including the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies and the Kyiv School of Economics Institute have similarly demonstrated that this information is publicly available, objective, and can be independently analysed. Far from being opaque and difficult to find, CSIS, CREA and others have found such evidence is freely and publicly available and it can be objectively and independently analysed.

AFUO’s own research confirms this practicality. Between July and October 2025 alone, the AFUO documented eight specific tanker shipments generating an estimated \$123.4 million for the Kremlin:

- *Hafnia Lillesand* (Port Botany, 5-6 July, 75,000 tonnes, \$16.2m)
- *Front Pollux* (Port Botany, 12 July, 100,000 tonnes, \$21.6m)
- *Seferis* (Kwinana WA, 26 July, 103,000 tonnes, \$22.3m)
- *Navig8 Gladiator* (Port Botany, 16 August, 38,000 tonnes, \$8.2m)
- *STI Madison* (Port Botany, 27 August, 80,000 tonnes, \$17.3m)
- *SFL Puma* (Port Botany, 4 September, 90,000 tonnes, \$19.5m)
- *Torm Emilie* (Kwinana WA, 12 October, 68,000 tonnes, \$5.8m)
- *Proteus Stephanie* (Port Botany, 26 October, 58,000 tonnes, \$12.5m)

## Industry Self-Regulation: Why Voluntary Measures Are Insufficient

In October 2025, Senator Penny Wong stated that the government expects the private sector to manage its own supply chains to ensure they do not “inadvertently fund Russia’s illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine,” emphasising that businesses should uphold this responsibility.

The AFUO’s experience demonstrates that relying on voluntary self-regulation is insufficient. When AFUO approached major fuel importers — including BP, ExxonMobil, Ampol, and Viva Energy — the response was uniform: “we are operating in line with Australian law.” Importantly, these companies showed no willingness to further engage or address the concerns of the Ukrainian-Australian community, despite the issue being a matter of significant public interest. This indicates that, without regulatory intervention, market forces alone will not prevent sanctions evasion and companies are unlikely to self-regulate in ways that align with Australia’s ethical and foreign policy commitments.

Internationally, the limitations of voluntary compliance are well-documented. Research conducted by B4Ukraine, a coalition of civil society organisations, shows that voluntary corporate due diligence has largely failed in the context of Russia, despite clear guidance from the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights<sup>14</sup>. As highlighted by B4 Ukraine in their submission to this inquiry<sup>15</sup>:

*Despite early rhetoric from many companies about exiting the Russian market or reassessing their position in Russia, the majority have failed to fully disengage. B4Ukraine’s 2025 monitoring shows that over half of the 1,200 major*

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<sup>13</sup> Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, ‘Methodology’ (Russia Fossil Tracker)  
<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.russiafossiltracker.com/methodology/&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1770113733400062&usg=AOvVaw0cGKu3K0VRS3RvKJusu1s7>

<sup>14</sup> B4 Ukraine submission No. 6, Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Parliament of Australia, *Effectiveness of sanctions against the Russian Federation* [Submissions – Parliament of Australia](#)

<sup>15</sup> *ibid*

*international companies present in Russia before the full-scale invasion have continued at least some form of operation there, either through direct subsidiaries, local partnerships, or franchising arrangements.*

*Voluntary commitments, corporate statements, and reliance on reputational pressure have proven insufficient—particularly in sectors with high profit margins and complex supply chains, such as energy and commodities trading.*

This demonstrates that reliance on voluntary measures and reputational pressure alone is insufficient to prevent businesses from contributing to or enabling sanctions evasion. These findings reinforce the need for legally enforceable, origin-based restrictions and mandatory reporting to ensure that Australian businesses do not inadvertently finance Russia's war machine.

**Recommendation:**

- **Fuel importers should be required to provide enforceable Certificates of Origin demonstrating that imported petroleum products are free from Russian geological origin. The burden of proof should rest with the importer, ensuring accountability and enabling effective enforcement of Australia's sanctions.**
- **A Sanctions Monitoring and Compliance Unit should be established with a mandate to produce annual public reports to Parliament on enforcement effectiveness, compliance findings, investigations, and measurable progress on closing loopholes, ensuring ongoing Parliamentary oversight and accountability.**

## **Terms of Reference - (b) the intended effects of sanctions imposed**

Globally, more than 20,000 sanctions have been imposed on Russia since 2012, 80% since 2022, by around 50 countries.<sup>16</sup> While their precise impact is difficult to quantify, most agree that sanctions have in part constrained Russia's capacity to wage war, forcing production cuts and reducing revenues. A central objective of this sanctions framework has been to restrict Russia's ability to profit from the sale of oil and gas.

Oil and gas, however, remain the Kremlin's primary source of revenue, constituting approximately 30-50% of Russia's GDP<sup>17</sup> and over 60% of its exports.<sup>18</sup> Where oil sanctions have been tightened and enforced – particularly by the EU, UK and US – results are clear. According to the Centre for Research on Clean Energy and Clean Air (CREA), late-2025 measures targeting Rosneft and Lukoil led to a 12% drop in seaborne exports, a 16% revenue loss, and significant production cuts. These effective sanctions made a huge share of Russian oil “high-risk”, driving India to cut purchases by 29% month-on-month. In December 2025, output fell by ~100,000 barrels/day, falling well below OPEC+ targets. Every lost barrel directly reduces Russian state revenue.<sup>19</sup>

This demonstrates a simple truth: sanctions work when enforced.

### **The cost of complacency**

There is also a broader cost that cannot be measured in barrels or at the bowser. Australia's sanctions regime is a key instrument of our soft power and strategic alignment for our national security. To allow the hollowing out of sanctions can undermine their usefulness as a peaceful means of settling international disputes and weaken Australia's standing as a principled democratic actor. Sanctions that can be easily bypassed may invite further evasion – not only by Russia, but by other states or actors. The question is not whether reform is “worth the cost”, but whether Australia can afford the strategic, moral, national security, and long-term economic instability costs of inaction.

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<sup>16</sup> Simon Saradzhyan, Ivan Arreguin-Toft and Angelina Flood, '3 Years Later: What Russia's Aggression in Ukraine Has Cost It and What It's Gained', *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs* (24 February 2025) [3-years-later-what-russias-aggression-ukraine-has-cost-it-and-what-its-gained](#)

<sup>17</sup> Seth G Jones and Riley McCabe, 'Russia's Battlefield Woes in Ukraine', *Centre for Strategic & International Studies* (Brief, 3 June 2025) 12.

<sup>18</sup> Vitaly Shevchenko, 'How the West is helping Russia to fund its war on Ukraine' (BBC, 30 May 2025) [bbc.com/news/articles/cdxk454kxz8o](#)

<sup>19</sup> Vaibhav Raghunandan, Petras Katinas and Luke Wickenden, 'December 2025 – Monthly analysis of Russian fossil fuel exports and sanction', *Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)* (13 January 2026)

## **Terms of Reference - (d) the extent of efforts by Russia and other affected entities to evade Australian sanctions**

Russia's conduct is characterised by daily war crimes, deception, denial, bad faith acting, and routine disregard of international agreements and sanctions.

Sanctions-circumvention and covert economic practices are not incidental to this conduct, but a continuation of the Soviet-era playbook:<sup>20</sup> a structured operation blending state apparatus and private entities to outmanoeuvre Western compliance efforts, underscoring the necessity for rigorous enforcement and continual evaluation of Australia's sanctions regime.

Russia has consistently disregarded the norms of civilised behaviour and ethical commerce, evidenced by its invasion of Ukraine and ongoing efforts to conceal its illegal and immoral conduct. There is no clearer example than Russia's creation of a "shadow fleet" of old, dangerous, uninsured tankers flying foreign flags. In late 2025, it was estimated there were around 600 vessels used for the transportation of Russian oil products, with some 100 of these tankers flying flags of convenience bought from Pacific Island states, with the Cook Islands thought to have the single most cases (around 30).<sup>21</sup>

**Recommendation: The Australian Government should engage with Pacific Island governments and other relevant international partners to discourage the provision of flags of convenience to Russian oil tankers. Measures could include diplomatic pressure, linking compliance to aid or trade incentives, and participation in multilateral forums to prevent small jurisdictions from enabling sanctions evasion, thereby closing a key avenue of Russian circumvention.**

## **Terms of Reference - (a) (ii) identifying, seizing, freezing and liquidating Russian financial assets**

The Norwegian Institute of International Affairs published findings in November 2025 that calculated in the next four years Europe would need €1.63 trillion (\$2.8 trillion) to address the national and economic security concerns in the event of a Russian victory.<sup>22</sup> Supporting Ukraine to maintain superiority on the battlefield would cost €838 billion (\$1.5 trillion), about half the cost. If the frozen assets held in Belgium were re-appropriated for this purpose, it would reduce the cost again by half.<sup>23</sup>

Frozen assets, fines and other imposts gathered by financial sanctions can be used as reparations for Ukraine. These could support urgent funding for humanitarian needs, military equipment and resources, support victims of the war and their families, rebuild communities shattered by Russian aggression, rehabilitation, rebuild infrastructure destroyed and to replace Ukrainian assets appropriated by Russia.

### **Financial sanctions and frozen assets**

It is publicly acknowledged by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation that approximately USD \$300 billion in sovereign Russian assets have been frozen in Western jurisdictions. This reportedly includes around USD \$6 billion in Australian dollar-denominated assets. In addition, it is estimated that more than AUD \$9 billion<sup>24</sup> in Russian-linked assets are held within Australia when other sanctioned entities and individuals are taken into account. These assets have been identified and frozen under existing sanctions frameworks; however, they have not been seized or liquidated for reparative purposes.

International law provides a clear basis for further action. An aggressor state bears an obligation to make reparations for damage caused by acts of armed aggression. The UN Articles on the Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts permit countermeasures in response to serious breaches of international law. Ukraine has suffered an estimated USD 486 billion in damage, including the destruction of thousands of medical and educational facilities. Sanctions that merely immobilise Russian assets fall short of achieving accountability or meaningful deterrence.

<sup>20</sup> Daria Synhaievskaya and Oleksandr Kovalkov, 'How Does Russia Draw on the Experience of Circumventing Sanctions from the Soviet Union Era?' *Ukraine World* (3 October 2023) [ukraineworld.org/en/articles/analysis/russia-circumventing-sanctions](https://ukraineworld.org/en/articles/analysis/russia-circumventing-sanctions)

<sup>21</sup> Steven Trask, 'Putin oil smuggling 'shadow fleet' using Cook Islands office' (news.com, 2 December 2025) [news.com.au/world/putin-oil-smuggling-shadow-fleet-using-cook-islands-office/news-story/223bbc5255ade79218cd29f6489239dc](https://news.com.au/world/putin-oil-smuggling-shadow-fleet-using-cook-islands-office/news-story/223bbc5255ade79218cd29f6489239dc)

<sup>22</sup> Erlend Bjørtvedt, Karsten Friis, Trygve Johannes Smidt, John Karlsrud, Olav Slettebø, Ole Martin Stormoen and Casper Waagbø, 'Europe's choice – Military and economic scenarios for the War in Ukraine' (Report Series No 12, CORISK/Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, November 2025) 15, 17.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid 17, 74–9.

<sup>24</sup> Australian elite seek to divert Russia's \$9b 'dirty money' to Ukraine - [Sydney Morning Herald](https://www.smh.com.au/news/australia/australian-elite-seek-to-divert-russias-9b-dirty-money-to-ukraine-20250409) (9 April 2024)

Australia's allies are moving beyond asset freezing. Canada has enacted legislation enabling the seizure and transfer of sanctioned assets. Belgium has begun directing tax revenues derived from frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine, and the European Union has adopted measures to use windfall profits from frozen Russian central bank assets for Ukraine's reconstruction. The United States and United Kingdom have both publicly supported coordinated G7 action to redeploy sovereign Russian assets.

**Recommendation:** In this context, Australia's current sanctions regime—while comprehensive in designation—remains incomplete in scope and effect. To strengthen the effectiveness of sanctions, the Australian Government should:

- Publicly confirm the quantum and nature of Russian sovereign assets frozen in Australia;
- Assess and update legislative and policy frameworks to enable the seizure, liquidation, and redeployment of sanctioned Russian assets, including central bank assets, for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction; and
- Ensure continued pursuit of assets held by sanctioned Russian oligarchs and enablers of the invasion, consistent with recent Federal Court decisions upholding Australia's sanctions approach.

Australia can act decisively at no cost to its taxpayers. Redirecting frozen Russian assets would materially contribute to Ukraine's recovery, reinforce the credibility of Australia's sanctions regime, and send a clear signal that illegal aggression carries real and lasting consequences. In doing so, Australia would align its sanctions practice with its stated foreign policy objectives and with emerging international norms among its partners.

### **Terms of Reference - (g) any other related matters**

In addition to closing third-country loopholes, the Australian government should strengthen and expand its sanctions regime to curtail investments in Russian-associated assets by enforcing transparency and accountability of government and superannuation fund investments. Failure to do so undermines Australia's sanctions, contradicts its stated support for Ukraine, and risks entangling public funds and Australian workers' retirement savings in the financing of Russia's war effort.

#### **Future Fund**

As reported by the Australian Financial Review on 26 November 2025, the Future Fund holds approximately AUD \$175.4 million in shares in Reliance Industries<sup>25</sup>, India's largest publicly listed company and one of the world's largest refiners of Russian crude oil. Reliance, owned by Mukesh Ambani, has become one of the largest buyers of Russian crude since Western bans were imposed following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a strategy that has also contributed to Ambani becoming India's richest person. Since the war began, Reliance has purchased at least USD \$33 billion<sup>26</sup> worth of Russian crude—approximately 8% of Russia's total crude exports—benefiting from discounted prices made possible by Western sanctions.

Reliance's share price has surged as a result of rising profits from discounted Russian oil purchases, delivering gains to investors, including the Future Fund. Despite trimming its holdings, the value of the Future Fund's stake in Reliance Industries increased by \$19 million in the first half of 2025<sup>27</sup>. The holding is now the Future Fund's 76th largest listed investment, with the gains flowing through to the federal budget.<sup>28</sup> It is alarming that the Future Fund is using public funds to invest in and is profiting from a shareholding in a company that does business with a genocidal regime.

As Australia's sovereign wealth fund, the Future Fund has a responsibility to align its investments with the nation's values. It is unacceptable for it to support a company that continues to do business with Russia, thereby financing the Kremlin's war machine and enabling its genocidal war against Ukraine.

Every day, the Ukrainian people endure immense suffering, as their homes, cities, and families are destroyed by Russia. Australia has a moral and ethical duty to ensure its investments do not contribute to Russia's war crimes and violations of international law.

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<sup>25</sup> Michael Read, 'Future Fund urged to dump \$175m from Russian 'blood oil' refiner' ([Australian Financial Review](#), 25 November 2025)

<sup>26</sup> India's richest man buys \$33 billion in Russian oil - [The Washington Post](#) (23 September 2025)

<sup>27</sup> Michael Read, 'Future Fund urged to dump \$175m from Russian 'blood oil' refiner' ([Australian Financial Review](#), 25 November 2025)

<sup>28</sup> Ibid

**Recommendation: The Future Fund must immediately divest from Reliance Industries to uphold Australia's commitment to supporting Ukraine and opposing aggression.**

### **Superannuation fund investments**

Beyond the Future Fund, major Australian superannuation funds collectively hold almost \$110 million in Reliance, with smaller funds holding a further \$161 million.<sup>29</sup> This exposure not only contradicts Australia's values, but is ethically unacceptable, supporting a company that finances Russia's war machine. It also conflicts with widely accepted Environmental, Social Governance (ESG) principles.

As reported by the Sydney Morning Herald on 20 November 2026, some of Australia's biggest super funds have been profiting from blood oil. A case in point is IFM Investors—co-owned by major industry super funds. IFM holds a significant stake in Vitol Tank Terminals International, which owns a Malaysian terminal through which an estimated one million tonnes of Russian refined oil has passed since January 2024. Although companies involved claim legal compliance, legality alone is insufficient when Australian retirement savings are indirectly facilitating trade that funds an aggressive war.

**Recommendation: Require superannuation funds to conduct enhanced due diligence on investments linked to sanctioned states and mandate divestment where assets materially enable sanctioned trade, even indirectly. Introducing mandatory disclosure of crude origins for imported fuel products and requiring reporting on exposure to sanctioned commodities would reduce the risk of inadvertent sanctions breaches and restore public confidence.**

### **Euroclear, Russian Assets, and Australia's Public Investment Responsibility**

Euroclear is one of the world's largest financial market infrastructure providers, responsible for settling and safeguarding trillions of dollars in securities transactions for governments, banks, and institutional investors. As a central securities depository, it plays a critical role in holding and administering sovereign and institutional assets on behalf of global markets.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Euroclear has become a central custodian of frozen Russian state assets, holding tens of billions of euros belonging to the Russian central bank and other sanctioned entities. These assets, immobilised under international sanctions, generate significant interest income while remaining legally owned by the Russian state. Euroclear holds approximately €194 billion (AUD \$325 billion) in frozen Russian central bank assets—nearly 85% of Euroclear's total balance sheet. These assets generated €2.7 billion in interest income in the first half of 2025 alone.<sup>30</sup>

NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp), the New South Wales government's investment manager, holds a stake in Euroclear on behalf of NSW taxpayers. This means Australian public money is invested in an entity whose balance sheet and global relevance are now deeply intertwined with Russian state assets frozen due to an illegal war of aggression.

Firstly, this raises a critical question: why has public money been invested in an institution with such substantial exposure to Russian state assets, particularly when those assets are linked to a regime committing ongoing violations of international law? Not to mention that TCorp acquired its 4.92% stake in Euroclear in December 2024, almost 3 years into Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. At a minimum, this investment should have demanded heightened ethical scrutiny and active stewardship.

Secondly, since TCorp currently has a stake in Euroclear, its shareholding gives it influence. As a significant minority shareholder, TCorp can publicly support the European Commission's proposal, engage Euroclear's governance structures, and advocate for the use of frozen Russian assets to help finance Ukraine's recovery. This would demonstrate that ethical investment is not merely about risk management, but about ensuring public capital is not morally neutral in the face of aggression.

Overall, there should be policy alignment between Australia's sanctions regime and the investment governance frameworks of public funds, so that Australian capital does not inadvertently benefit from, or remain entangled with, assets derived from Russian aggression.

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<sup>29</sup> Michael Read, 'Future Fund urged to dump \$175m from Russian 'blood oil' refiner' (Australian Financial Review, 25 November 2025) [afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/future-fund-urged-to-dump-175m-from-russian-blood-oil-refiner-20251124-p5ni36?ref=rss](https://www.afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/future-fund-urged-to-dump-175m-from-russian-blood-oil-refiner-20251124-p5ni36?ref=rss)

<sup>30</sup> Nataliya Havrylychuk, 'Euroclear and the geopolitics of immobilised Russian assets' (CEPR Policy Note, 2025) <<https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/euroclear-and-geopolitics-immobilised-russian-assets>>

**Recommendation: Establish clear federal investment guidelines for public funds that prohibit capital deployment or passive exposure to sanctioned-state assets and require active shareholder engagement where exposure exists. These guidelines should mandate alignment with sanctions frameworks, ethical use of frozen assets, and transparency around investments connected to international crimes.**

By supporting the use of frozen Russian assets, enforcing ethical investment standards, and leveraging shareholder influence, Australia can help ensure that the financial burden of reconstruction falls on the aggressor, not the victims of Russia's invasion. Public capital should reinforce Australia's foreign policy objectives—not undermine them by default. Ukraine has suffered catastrophic damage as a result of Russia's illegal invasion. International law is clear that an aggressor state bears responsibility for reparations. Australia has an opportunity to reinforce the credibility and effectiveness of its sanctions regime by ensuring that sovereign asset management—including through institutions such as the Future Fund and international custodians like Euroclear—is aligned with justice, accountability, and the rules-based international order.

## **CONCLUSION**

The AFUO is confident the Committee and Australian Government will see the rightness of strengthening political, economic and practical sanctions, especially against the movement of blood oil, both as a moral obligation and a practical tool for ending Russia's illegal and immoral war against Ukraine, reining in Putin's ambitions for Soviet-style expansion and global dominance. We are asking for Australia to continue to demonstrate moral leadership in both symbolic and very practical ways, not only when it is easy but also when it is difficult.

### **Recommendations**

- 1. Close the refining loophole immediately**  
Amend the definition of "import sanctioned goods" to include refined petroleum products derived from Russian crude oil, regardless of the country in which refining or "substantial transformation" occurs.
- 2. Safeguard Defence fuel procurement from sanctioned supply chains**  
Audit the Viva Energy Defence fuel contract to assess ADF exposure to refined products derived from Russian crude; mandate independently verifiable Certificates of Origin for all Commonwealth fuel suppliers; and require Defence fuel contracts to include enforceable supply-chain transparency and sanctions-compliance provisions.
- 3. Harmonise sanctions with international partners**  
Align Australia's import restrictions with those enacted by the United Kingdom and the European Union to ensure consistency among allied sanctions regimes.
- 4. Mandate supply-chain transparency**  
Require fuel importers to provide enforceable Certificates of Origin demonstrating that imported petroleum products are free from Russian geological origin, with the burden of proof placed on the importer.
- 5. Strengthen sanctions monitoring and enforcement**  
Establish and fund a dedicated Sanctions Monitoring and Compliance Unit with a mandate to report annually to Parliament on enforcement activity, compliance outcomes, investigations, and progress in closing sanctions loopholes.
- 6. Address international avenues of sanctions evasion: Flags of Convenience**  
The Australian Government should engage with Pacific Island governments and other relevant international partners to discourage the provision of flags of convenience to Russian oil tankers.
- 7. Address frozen Russian assets**
  - a. Publicly confirm the quantum and nature of Russian sovereign assets frozen in Australia;

- b. Review and update legislative and policy frameworks to enable the seizure, liquidation, and redeployment of sanctioned Russian assets — including central bank assets — for Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction;
- c. Ensure continued pursuit of assets held by sanctioned Russian oligarchs and enablers of the invasion, consistent with recent Federal Court decisions.

**8. Prevent Australian investment from enabling sanctioned trade**

- a. Require the Future Fund to divest from Reliance Industries due to its role in refining Russian crude;
- b. Mandate enhanced due diligence by superannuation funds on investments linked to sanctioned states and require divestment where assets materially enable sanctioned trade, even indirectly;
- c. Establish clear federal investment guidelines prohibiting passive exposure of public funds to sanctioned-state assets and requiring active shareholder engagement where exposure exists.

The stakes are high. Russia's ambitions extend well beyond Ukraine. How democracies respond will shape global security, including in our own Indo-Pacific region. If Ukraine falls, Putin will move to pick off his neighbours one-by-one, strengthening his hand as they fall until the west is left with no alternative but to respond militarily.

In a world dominated by interlocking global trade in goods and money, the economic frontline is anywhere Russia can gain an advantage. It therefore is entirely reasonable for Ukraine to expect its partners to act where it matters. Australia has already shown moral leadership through aid, diplomacy and sanctions; strengthening our sanctions regime and closing the blood-oil loophole is a necessary step to maintain credibility and ensure that national actions align with stated values.

For Ukrainians, and for Ukrainian-Australians, this is not abstract policy but lived reality. It is the difference between supporting a nation fighting for survival and indirectly contributing to the killing of innocent civilians. Australia has shown resolve; now it must ensure its sanctions regime matches that commitment.

## APPENDIX A: Background

Ukraine's victory over Russia is not just possible – it is essential. And it can happen with the unwavering support of the free world because for Ukraine, surrender is not an option. Sanctions were designed to be a strong deterrent to war, but they only work when enforced without compromise. Right now, the Russian Federation (Russia) is exploiting sanctions loopholes to fund its war machine, and every success in evading restrictions prolongs this brutal war.

Western democracies are recognising that sanctions enforcement must continuously evolve to close loopholes and respond to changing conditions. Australia has enacted sanctions against Russia and has demonstrated a commitment to defending Ukraine, democracy, and the rules-based order. But enacting limited sanctions alone is not enough. We must match Russia's determination with equal resolve by ensuring those sanctions are rigorously enforced, adapted, do not create loopholes and made to truly bite. The cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of resolve.

### Australian support of Ukraine and Ukrainians to-date

*\*Please note: All figures in this submission are in Australian dollars unless otherwise stated.*

The AFUO wishes to express its gratitude to the Australian government and the people of Australia for their steadfast support of Ukraine over the years.

Since 2022, more than \$1.7 billion has been committed through military, humanitarian, and financial aid.<sup>31</sup> This has included, but is not limited to: military equipment such as Abrams tanks, armoured vehicles such as Bushmasters, PMVs, advanced armaments and ammunitions, drones and counter-drone equipment, combat equipment, ADF training, personnel and support teams for the Ukrainian Armed Forces, financial contributions to the International Fund for Ukraine and NATO's Ukraine Comprehensive Assistance Trust Fund, RAAF surveillance deployment, funding for the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the Ukraine Energy Support Fund, UNFAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency, humanitarian assistance, and duty-free access for Ukrainian imports until 3 July 2026. The most recent announcement in December 2025 confirmed the final delivery of the 49 Abrams tanks committed in October 2024, and a \$95 million military aid package (\$43 million in ADF equipment, \$50 million to NATO's PURL initiative and \$2 million to the Drone Capability Coalition), a reaffirmation of Australia's commitment to the Coalition of the Willing and Operation Kudu, and further sanctions on 45 vessels linked to Russia's shadow fleet, bringing the total to 200 vessels.

In addition, we sincerely thank the Albanese Government for prioritising visa applications for Ukrainian displaced persons, and for establishing the RoS (Resolution of Status) 851 visa pathway from Temporary Humanitarian (786) visas, giving hope and stability for newly settled Ukrainians in Australia.

### Sanctions imposed by the Commonwealth against the Russian Federation since February 2022

Australia has implemented a wide-ranging sanctions regime against Russia, targeting trade, finance, and energy sectors with more than 1,600 measures designed to cut off revenue streams, enforce compliance, and uphold democracy and the rules-based international order. While the Australian Government has been rightly praised for its steadfast support of Ukraine, a critical weakness in the sanctions regime is actively undermining its credibility and alignment with Australia's values, moral obligations, and national security interests.

### A track record of aggression

Russia's brutal full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 is the latest chapter in Russia's long imperial history of aggression, occupation and systemic violation of international humanitarian law. From Tsarist and Soviet repression – including the 1932-33 Holodomor genocide, suppression of language and traditions, and political persecution – to post-Soviet interference and aggression, Russia has repeatedly sought to undermine and destroy Ukrainian statehood. Ukraine possesses a unique linguistic, cultural, religious, and political heritage that has repeatedly asserted its independence, most recently in 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union, and again during the Orange Revolution in 2004 and the Revolution of Dignity in 2014, directly challenging Russia's illegal foreign interference and threat to its democracy.

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<sup>31</sup> Acting Prime Minister, Minister for Defence, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Minister for Defence Industries, 'Australia stands with NATO partners in support of Ukraine' (Media Release, 4 December 2025).

Russia's actions have repeatedly violated the 1994 Budapest Memorandum, in which it pledged to respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and existing borders. Other violations include the Genocide Convention, the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and human rights law. Ukraine's sovereignty has also been attacked despite clear protections under international law for sovereignty and territorial integrity.<sup>32</sup> The illegality of Russia's actions and calls for their cessation have been unequivocally reaffirmed by authoritative representative bodies and international courts, including the International Court of Justice,<sup>33</sup> the International Criminal Court,<sup>34</sup> and the overwhelming majority of the United Nations General Assembly.<sup>35</sup>

### **Context: War on the frontline felt across Australia**

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused unimaginable horror and destruction. Since February 2022, there have been over 55,600 civilian casualties in Ukraine, including more than 15,000 killed.<sup>36</sup> In 2025, Russia ramped up its deadly campaign of targeting civilians. The United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) reported a 31% spike of civilian casualties from 2024, and 70% increase from 2023.<sup>37</sup> Entire towns and cities have been reduced to rubble through the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure, including housing, hospitals, kindergartens, energy systems, and UNESCO heritage cultural sites.<sup>38</sup> Ukraine will face enduring consequences of Russia's illegal and immoral invasion: mass trauma, demographic loss, environmental damage, economic dislocation and the enormous long-term burden of reconstruction.

These impacts are felt acutely by Australian-Ukrainians and the global diaspora, many of whom have lost family members, homes and livelihoods, while they continue to mobilise for humanitarian and military aid, advocacy initiatives, and cultural efforts abroad. Since February 2022, Australia has welcomed Ukrainian displaced women, children, and men to resettle in Australia, and committed to supporting Ukraine as part of a global democratic coalition through humanitarian and military aid and imposing a robust sanctions regime to curb Russia's capacity to finance its war on Ukraine.<sup>39</sup>

For Australians, the war has also sharpened public consciousness and national identity, reinforcing Australia's self-image as a principled defender of international law, democracy, peace and security. This commitment is reflected in strong public backing: the Lowy Institute 2025 Lowy Poll shows 73% support for humanitarian and military aid, 77% for refugee resettlement, and 84% for strict sanctions on Russia.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> *Charter of the United Nations* art 2(4).

<sup>33</sup> See, eg, *Allegation of Genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Ukraine v Russian Federation) (Provisional Measures)* [2022] ICJ Rep 2022.

<sup>34</sup> International Court of Justice, 'Situation in Ukraine: ICC judges issue arrest warrants against Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin and Maria Alekseyevna Lvova-Belova' (Media Release, 17 March 2023).

<sup>35</sup> See, eg, GA Res ES-11/1, UN Doc A/RES/ES-11/1 (18 March 2022) 2–3.

<sup>36</sup> UNHCR, 'Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict, December 2025 update' (Report, 12 January 2026) 4.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid* 1.

<sup>38</sup> Thomas Mallard, 'Damaged cultural sites in Ukraine verified by UNESCO' (UNESCO, 7 February 2024) [unesco.org/en/articles/damaged-cultural-sites-ukraine-verified-unesco](https://unesco.org/en/articles/damaged-cultural-sites-ukraine-verified-unesco)

<sup>39</sup> Senate Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Parliament of Australia, *Australia's Sanctions Regime* (Report, February 2025) 3.

<sup>40</sup> Ryan Neelam, 'Understanding Australian Attitudes to the World', *Lowy Institute Poll 2025* (Report, 2025) 22–3.

## APPENDIX B: AFUO advocacy and public response to the blood oil sanctions loophole

When the AFUO began raising public awareness about the blood oil sanctions loophole, knowledge was limited about how Russian-linked fuel was entering Australia and reaching petrol bowers. Over the course of 2025, as more Australians became aware of the issue, a sense of outrage, concern, and support began to emerge.

The AFUO's parliamentary engagement helped to raise awareness amongst parliamentarians. Through email letters to all MPs and direct meetings with key parliamentarians, the issue gained traction with figures such as Andrew Wilkie MP, Senators Fatima Payman, Jacqui Lambie, Michaelia Cash, Dean Smith, David Shoebridge and Dave Sharma, who raised the matter in Parliament, Senate Estimates, and the media.

Community advocacy played an equally important role in turning awareness into action. Together with the AFUO, state community organisations encouraged their members to contact MPs, resulting in 348 letters, and organised protests at ports in Sydney, Geelong, and Perth, drawing sustained media coverage on national television, ABC Radio, SBS, and in major newspapers.

The issue gained further momentum through the *Sydney Morning Herald / The Age* "Blood Oil" series, which, together with reporting from the *Australian Financial Review*, *The Monthly* and *The Guardian*, highlighted superannuation and Future Fund investments in Reliance Industries, trans-shipping operations through Malaysia and other jurisdictions, and Australian Defence Force fuel supply chain concerns regarding Russian-origin refined products. A selection of key stories is listed below.

The AFUO also collaborated with global policy think tanks such as CREA and B4Ukraine, which helped demonstrate that Australia was increasingly an outlier among like-minded nations in allowing Russian-linked fuel into its market, reinforcing the urgency for Australia to align its sanctions framework with international standards.

Through this coordinated effort, the AFUO helped to bring the blood oil issue to national attention, revealing that it resonates deeply with the Australian public. Many Australians were shocked to learn that, when filling up their cars, they could be unwittingly financing Russian war crimes. Public concern is reflected in the polling: the 2025 Lowy Institute Poll found that 84% of Australians support strict measures against Russia.

**This sustained advocacy demonstrates that the blood oil loophole is not a fringe concern, but a substantive policy gap that has captured widespread public attention and demands urgent legislative action.**

### A selection of blood oil media coverage:

#### **The Age — December 6, 2025**

Last drinks at the Omani cantina: The shadow fleet behind Australia's fuel supply, by Mark Corrigan

Link: [https://www.theage.com.au/national/last-drinks-at-the-omani-cantina-the-shadow-fleet-behind-australia-s-fuel-supply-20251204-p5nkzv.html?ref=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_source=rss\\_feed](https://www.theage.com.au/national/last-drinks-at-the-omani-cantina-the-shadow-fleet-behind-australia-s-fuel-supply-20251204-p5nkzv.html?ref=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_source=rss_feed)

#### **Sydney Morning Herald/The Age — December 3, 2025**

Australia targets Putin's shadow fleet in bid to starve Russian war machine, Matthew Knott

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australia-targets-putin-s-shadow-fleet-in-bid-to-starve-russian-war-machine-20251203-p5nklo.html>

#### **7ampodcast.com.au — 3 December 2025**

How Australia's 'blood oil' imports are funding Russia's war

Link: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/2ISNNSRQNsLS9sGnPdawWe?si=EGyTc4vkRz6Tpw2Lst4Orw&t=727&ct=696>

#### **Sydney Morning Herald — December 1, 2025**

Blood oil' on the ground: I've seen first-hand the devastation of war in Ukraine, Kate Geraghty

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/blood-oil-on-the-ground-i-ve-seen-first-hand-the-devastation-of-war-in-ukraine-20251126-p5niji.html>

#### **Herald Sun — 29 November 2025**

Ban imports': New data reveals how Australian drivers are unknowingly funding Putin via refineries using Russian oil, Mark Dunn

**Link:**

[https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB\\_WRE170\\_a\\_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fban-imports-new-data-reveals-how-australian-drivers-are-unknowingly-funding-putin-via-refineries-using-russian-oil%2Fnews-story%2F898a8b0217c0268d6080feeceba61f8a&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fban-imports-new-data-reveals-how-australian-drivers-are-unknowingly-funding-putin-via-refineries-using-russian-oil%2Fnews-story%2F898a8b0217c0268d6080feeceba61f8a&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE)

**The Saturday Paper — 29 November 2025**

Australia's crude Russian oil secret

**Link:** <https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/environment/2025/11/29/australias-crude-russian-oil-secret>

**The Age — November 28, 2025**

Australians have paid billions of dollars for petrol sourced from Russian oil – despite sanctions against Vladimir Putin's regime. We've now managed to track exactly how it's getting here. By David Crowe

**Link:** <http://theage.com.au/world/europe/how-putin-s-ghost-ships-put-billions-worth-of-blood-oil-into-australian-cars-20251124-p5ni06.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald — 25 November 2025**

'Urgent priority': Major Australian super fund investigates Russian Blood Oil links, By Matthew Knott

**Link:** <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/urgent-priority-major-australian-super-fund-investigates-russian-blood-oil-links-20251124-p5nh9q.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald/The Age — 25 November 2025**

Australia urged to make tough call on Russian oil as Putin's influence surges, Matthew Knott

**Link:** <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australia-urged-to-make-tough-call-on-russian-oil-as-putin-s-influence-surges-20251125-p5ni57.html>

**Australian Senate — 25 November 2025**

Senator Dave Sharma speech in the Senate about Russian oil loophole

**Link:** [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\\_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/28885/&sid=0291](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/28885/&sid=0291)

**Financial Review — 26 November 2025**

Future Fund urged to dump \$175m from Russian 'blood oil' refiner, Michael Read

**Link:** <https://www.afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/future-fund-urged-to-dump-175m-from-russian-blood-oil-refiner-20251124-p5ni36>

**The Australian — 26 November 2025**

Ukrainian pleas as latest 'blood oil' shipment arrives, Ben Packham

**Link:**

[https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB\\_WRE170\\_a\\_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fpolitics%2Fukrainian-pleas-as-latest-blood-oil-shipment-arrives%2Fnews-story%2Fd40b2da091ac21a8d1f7992f259e5dbc&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-2-NOSCORE](https://www.theaustralian.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=TAWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theaustralian.com.au%2Fnation%2Fpolitics%2Fukrainian-pleas-as-latest-blood-oil-shipment-arrives%2Fnews-story%2Fd40b2da091ac21a8d1f7992f259e5dbc&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-2-NOSCORE)

**Herald Sun — 25 November 2025**

Drivers Bankroll Russia's War on Ukraine

**Link:**

[https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB\\_WRE170\\_a\\_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fban-imports-new-data-reveals-how-australian-drivers-are-unknowingly-funding-putin-via-refineries-using-russian-oil%2Fnews-story%2F898a8b0217c0268d6080feeceba61f8a&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fban-imports-new-data-reveals-how-australian-drivers-are-unknowingly-funding-putin-via-refineries-using-russian-oil%2Fnews-story%2F898a8b0217c0268d6080feeceba61f8a&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE)

**Asia Pacific Defence Reporter podcast with Kym Bergmann — 25 November 2025**

Support for Ukraine and Russian Oil

**Link:** <https://asiapacificdefencereporter.com/apdr-podcast-episode-119-with-host-kym->

[bergmann/?utm\\_source=Asia+Pacific+Defence+Reporter&utm\\_campaign=79aa823bfa-RSS\\_EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_513319f9bb-57e9727da2-449607708](https://www.bergmann.com.au/?utm_source=Asia+Pacific+Defence+Reporter&utm_campaign=79aa823bfa-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_513319f9bb-57e9727da2-449607708)

**Sydney Morning Herald/The Age — 24 November 2025**

With her cousin dead and mother badly injured by a missile strike, Blood Oil is deeply personal for Kateryna Argyrou

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w4a7ROeSOM>

**ABC — 24 November 2025**

Australia's 'blood oil' problem, Kateryna Argyrou

Link: <https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/ukraine-russia-peace-plan-blood-oil-cyclone-fina-womens-soccer/106025584>

**Australian Financial Review — 24 November 2025**

Big super invests \$110m in refiner using Russian 'blood oil', Michael Read

Link: <https://www.afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/big-super-invests-110m-in-refiner-using-russian-blood-oil-20251124-p5nhth>

**Sydney Morning Herald and The Age — 24 November 2025**

'This should ring alarm bells': Twigg Forrester demands an end to Russian oil loopholes in Australia, Nick O'Malley and Matthew Knott

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/this-should-ring-alarm-bells-twigg-forrester-demands-an-end-to-russian-oil-loopholes-in-australia-20251123-p5nho8.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald and The Age — 21 November 2025**

Will Australians pay more at the petrol pump to cut off Putin's 'blood oil'? By Nick Toscano

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/business/consumer-affairs/will-australians-pay-more-at-the-petrol-pump-to-cut-off-putin-s-blood-oil-20251120-p5nh1d.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald and The Age — 21 November 2025**

Illegal and immoral': Wong hails step towards cutting off Russian oil funding, By Matthew Knott, Daniella White and Isabel McMillan

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/illegal-and-immoral-wong-hails-step-towards-cutting-off-russian-oil-funding-20251121-p5nhbo.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald — 21 November 2025**

Australians have paid \$2 billion to help fund Putin's bloody war. Here's what that can buy, Eryk Bagshaw

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/australians-have-paid-2-billion-to-help-fund-putin-s-bloody-war-here-s-what-that-can-buy-20251120-p5nh4a.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald/The Age — 21 November 2025**

Opinion: My Ukrainian neighbours have fuelled my campaign to block Russian oil from Australia By Mark Corrigan

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/my-ukrainian-neighbours-have-fuelled-my-campaign-to-block-russian-oil-from-australia-20251117-p5ng2g.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald — 21 November 2025**

It's time to stop paying Putin by Bevan Shields

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/it-s-time-to-stop-paying-putin-20251121-p5nhbc.html>

**Australian Financial review — 20 November 2025**

Russian oil risk clouds big super's ESG stance Lucas Baird and Nicola Smith

Link: <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/russian-oil-risk-clouds-big-super-s-esg-stance-20251120-p5nh1h>

**Sydney Morning Herald/The Age — 20 November 2025**

Australia's biggest super funds accused of profiting from Russian 'blood oil'

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/australia-s-biggest-super-funds-accused-of-profiting-from-russian-blood-oil-20251114-p5nffe.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald — 20 November 2025**

Editorial: Importing Russian oil is pouring blood on troubled waters. It's time to act

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/federal/importing-russian-oil-is-pouring-blood-on-troubled-waters-it-s-time-to-act-20251118-p5ng7p.html>

**The Sydney Morning Herald/The Age — 19 November 2025**

Indian refinery pulls Russian oil from Australian petrol amid backlash, David Crowe

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/indian-refinery-pulls-russian-oil-from-australian-petrol-amid-backlash-20251119-p5ngjm.html>

**Sydney Morning Herald / The Age — 14 November 2025**

Blood oil: How this Australia-bound ship is helping pay for Putin's war, David Crowe

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/blood-oil-how-this-australia-bound-ship-is-helping-pay-for-putin-s-war-20251113-p5nf37.html>

**The Guardian — 9 November 2025**

'Loophole' in sanctions allowing Russian oil to be imported to Australia through port part-owned by Macquarie Bank

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/nov/09/loophole-russian-sanctions-oil-imported-to-australia>

**SBS News — 8 November 2025**

Ukrainian-Australians call for further action on Russian 'blood oil' entering the country

Link: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/ukrainian-australians-call-for-further-action-on-russian-blood-oil/5imqsjgdu>

**The Nightly — 27 October 2025**

Ukraine accuse Albanese Government of allowing Russian-sourced fuel into Australia, pumping millions to Putin

Link: <https://thenightly.com.au/politics/australia/ukraine-accuse-albanese-government-of-allowing-russian-sourced-fuel-into-australia-pumping-millions-to-putin-c-20481859>

**SBS News Exclusive — 26 October 2025**

Revealed: Sanctioned Russian 'shadow' tankers in Australian oil product supply chains

Link: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/exclusive-data-show-russian-oil-tankers-infiltrating-australian-supply/eesi96jtw>

**Sky News — 24 October 2025**

Labor weighs further sanctions on Russian oil', Australian Financial Review

Link: <https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/politics/stop-buying-russian-blood-oil-major-european-ukrainian-groups-demand-of-the-albanese-government-as-sanctions-fall-flat/news-story/6121cda5f687dab98b831984022629c3>

**Australian Financial Review — 10 October 2025**

Wong powerless to stop local Russian 'blood fuel'

Link: <https://www.afr.com/policy/foreign-affairs/blood-fuel-banned-russian-oil-flows-to-australia-20251010-p5n1ll>

**ABC Radio — 7 October 2025**

Mark Corrigan, Pro-Ukraine oil activist, speaks on ABC Radio Perth about arrival of Torm Emilie tanker carrying refined russian oil

Link: <https://youtu.be/l-rpbpmZbNw>

**ABC Radio — 4 September 2025**

Hobart-based industry analyst Mark Corrigan on ABC News Radio about the #StopFuellingrussiasWar campaign

Link: <https://youtu.be/yKeVpJ4i-vk?feature=shared>

**Channel 9 News — 17 August 2025**

Sydney protest "Stop Fuelling russia's War" on 17 August 2025

Link: [https://youtu.be/xj6UJ\\_uX-QI?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/xj6UJ_uX-QI?feature=shared)

**Sydney Morning Herald — 7 August 2025**

Trump's fury at India leaves Albanese in a tight spot

Link: <https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/trump-s-fury-at-india-leaves-albanese-in-a-tight-spot-20250805-p5mkmh.html>

**Sky News — 31 July 2025**

Ukrainians Protest Outside Parliament House Against Russian Oil

Link: <https://youtu.be/SsTdRFv1DTM?feature=shared>

**Australian Parliament House Streaming Portal — 31 July 2025**

Senator Payman on the issue of Russian oil in Australia

Link: <https://youtu.be/hAA9UM64Z-4?t=20323>

**ABC Radio — 31 July 2025**

Are Australian motorists helping finance war in Ukraine?

Link: <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/worldtoday/are-australian-motorists-helping-finance-war-in-ukraine/105596156>

**SBS News — 31 July 2025**

SBS News on oil tanker with Russian crude which arrived to WA

Link: [https://www.youtube.com/shorts/z\\_tAJvJw\\_LQ?feature=share](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/z_tAJvJw_LQ?feature=share)

**Energy News Bulletin — 30 July 2025**

ENB exclusive: Act now to stop Russian "blood oil" tankers

Link: <https://www.energynewsbulletin.net/operations/news-articles/4517640/act-stop-krainian-ambassador-community-urges-crackdown-russian-origin-fuel>

**SBS New — 30 July 2025**

Calls to close Russian oil loophole after tanker protest off Perth sparks outrage and concern

Link: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/video/calls-to-close-russian-oil-loophole-after-tanker-protest-off-perth-sparks-outrage-and-concern/zlso86369>

**ABC News — 30 July 2025**

Tanker believed to be carrying fuel processed in India from Russian oil docks in Western Australia

Link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-30/seferis-tanker-believed-containing-fuel-derived-from-russian-oil/105583260>

**WA Today — 29 July 2025**

Tanker off Perth coast could 'sneakily' contain Russian crude, minister concedes

Link: <https://www.watoday.com.au/national/western-australia/wa-news-live-man-arrested-for-pushing-perth-flight-attendant-20250728-p5mihk.html?post=p590q2#p590q2>

**The West Australian — 29 July 2025**

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

Link: <https://thewest.com.au/news/wa/paul-papalia-warns-wa-businesses-should-be-alert-to-the-threat-of-buying-russian-goods-c-19513042>

**Channel 7 NEWS Perth — 28 July 2025**

Oil tanker with Russian oil has arrived to Western Australia

Link: <https://youtu.be/eBLQaW2leT8>

**ABC Radio Perth — 28 July 2025**

Host Gary Adshead speaks to Vaibhav Raghunandan of Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA)

Link: <https://youtu.be/CUKUD83AyWo>

**9NEWS Perth — 28 July 2025**

A tanker carrying Russian oil is sitting off the Perth coast tonight

Link: <https://x.com/9NewsPerth/status/1949781381212422541>

**Australian Business Journal — 27 July 2025**

Russian Oil Imports Australia: Sanctions Under Fire as Tanker Approaches

Link: <https://theabj.com.au/2025/07/27/russian-oil-imports-australia-sanctions-under-fire-as-tanker-approaches/>

**Channel 7 NEWS Perth — 27 July 2025**

Australia importing russian oil

Link: <https://youtu.be/mj40aUU7ncE>

**ABC News — 25 July 2025**

Claims fuel tanker heading to WA is filled with banned Russian oil

Link: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-25/western-australian-motorists-fuelled-by-banned-russian-oil-claim/105569172>

**news.com.au — 25 July 2025**

Tanker carrying Russian oil set to dock in WA despite sanctions, campaigners say

Link: <https://www.news.com.au/world/europe/tanker-carrying-russian-oil-set-to-dock-in-wa-despite-sanctions-campaigners-say/news-story/96ec69d1346d9c5f39a78d84cd4598bd>

**ABC Radio Perth — 24 July 2025**

Gary Adshead speaking to Mark Corrigan & Kateryna Argyrou on the issue of russian oil + Parliament question from Andrew Wilkie MP

Link: <https://youtu.be/OdrfxAevKs8>

**Parliament of Australia — 23 July 2025**

Federal MP Andrew Wilkie asks about russian origin fuel products in Australia

Link:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Hansard/Hansard\\_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/28810/&sid=0166#:~:text=M%20WILKIE%20\(Clark\)%20\(15,drive%20a%20tanker%20through%20them?](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansardr/28810/&sid=0166#:~:text=M%20WILKIE%20(Clark)%20(15,drive%20a%20tanker%20through%20them?)

**AFUO — 19 July 2025**

AFUO EU oil media release

Link: <https://stopfuellingrussiaswar.com/2025-07-19%20AFUO%20Statement%20EU%20sanctions.pdf>

**Kyiv Independent — 20 July 2025**

EU agrees on 'one of its strongest' Russia sanctions packages after Slovakia lifts veto

Link: <https://kyivindependent.com/eu-envoys-reportedly-agree-on-18th-package-of-russia-sanctions-after-slovakia-lifted-veto/>

**SBS News — 15 July 2025**

Trump threatens countries that do business with Russia with 100% tariffs. Here's who it could impact.

Link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-russia-ukraine-war-tariff-threat-countries-that-do-business-with-russia/>

**The New York Times — 9 July 2025**

Thune Says Russia Sanctions Vote Could Come as Soon as This Month

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/09/us/politics/russia-sanctions-senate-thune-trump.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare&sgrp=c-cb>

**Herald Sun — 7 July 2025**

Anger as tanker suspected of carrying Russian-based petrol docks in Australia, Matthew Dunn

Link:

[https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB\\_WRE170\\_a\\_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fanger-as-tanker-suspected-of-carrying-russianbased-petrol-docks-in-australia%2Fnews-story%2F447949fe910d48e703974270cb1d26af&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fanger-as-tanker-suspected-of-carrying-russianbased-petrol-docks-in-australia%2Fnews-story%2F447949fe910d48e703974270cb1d26af&memtype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE)

**Herald Sun/Ukrainian World Congress — 19 June 2025**

Ban Still Leaks Moscow Oil

Link: <https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/kateryna-argyrou-ban-still-leaks-moscow->

[oil/#:~:text=New%20sanctions%20deployed%20by%20the%20Albanese%20government,is%20a%20move%20in%20the%20right%20direction%2C](#)

**AFUO Media Release — 18 June 2025**

AFUO Welcomes Australian Government Sanctions on Russia's Shadow Fleet

Link: <https://afuo.org.au/community/afuo-welcomes-australian-government-sanctions-on-russias-shadow-fleet/>

**Daily Telegraph — Sky News, 11 June 2025**

'Appalling': Report shows Australia's high investment in Russian oil products, featuring interview by Sharri Markson

Link: <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/national/appalling-report-shows-australias-high-investment-in-russian-oil-products/video/25c599c853c0d822c7d5c1c3ef26bae8>

**Sky News Australia — 11 June 2025**

More money to Moscow than Kyiv: Australia buying billions in fuel using Russian crude despite sanctions against Kremlin

Link: <https://www.skynews.com.au/australia-news/politics/more-money-to-moscow-than-kyiv-australia-buying-billions-in-fuel-using-russian-crude-despite-sanctions-against-kremlin/news-story/cd311c02bc93e18690203a440accdb0b>

**Herald Sun — June 2025**

'Funding Putin's war machine': Forrest calls for end to Russian fuel imports

Link:

[https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB\\_WRE170\\_a\\_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Ffunding-putins-war-machine-andrew-twiggy-forrest-calls-on-albanese-government-to-stop-russian-fuel-imports%2Fnews-story%2F2cd6d0c1a07ce548895a32daee2da041&mementype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Ffunding-putins-war-machine-andrew-twiggy-forrest-calls-on-albanese-government-to-stop-russian-fuel-imports%2Fnews-story%2F2cd6d0c1a07ce548895a32daee2da041&mementype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE)

**The Chronicle/AFUO — 11 June 2026**

Call to close Aussie oil tax leak that's fuelling Putin's war on Ukraine

Link: <https://afuo.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/The-Chronicle-11-June-2025.pdf>

**Herald Sun — 10 June 2025**

Kremlin reaping \$1.85bn in tax for fuel shipped to Australia despite ban on oil imports from Vladimir Putin's regime

Link:

[https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB\\_WRE170\\_a\\_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fkremlin-reaping-185bn-in-tax-for-fuel-shipped-to-aust-despite-ban-on-oil-imports-from-vladimir-putins-regime%2Fnews-story%2F18b5d64ada0b8f7d2e8dcc526399c0dc&mementype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE](https://www.heraldsun.com.au/subscribe/news/1/?sourceCode=HSWEB_WRE170_a_GGL&dest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.heraldsun.com.au%2Fnews%2Fvictoria%2Fkremlin-reaping-185bn-in-tax-for-fuel-shipped-to-aust-despite-ban-on-oil-imports-from-vladimir-putins-regime%2Fnews-story%2F18b5d64ada0b8f7d2e8dcc526399c0dc&mementype=anonymous&mode=premium&v21=GROUPA-Segment-1-NOSCORE)