

Good afternoon,

I am a Townsville resident, writing about a loophole in Australia's Russia sanctions: refined petroleum products made from Russian-origin crude can still enter Australia when that crude is refined in third countries.

Australians shouldn't be forced to choose between being able to drive to work and not funding Russia's war machine. We can keep Australians moving without indirectly financing a brutal war—closing this loophole is how we do both.

Australia has already banned direct imports of Russian oil and refined petroleum and participates in the Oil Price Cap framework. But this loophole undermines the intent of the sanctions and risks Australia indirectly funding Russia's war effort.

I'm asking you to support practical steps to close this gap, including:

1. Prohibit imports of petroleum products produced from Russian-origin crude (or require robust proof of non-Russian crude origin).
2. Mandate importer due diligence and attestations for fuel supply chains, with audit powers and meaningful penalties for breaches.
3. Improve transparency (aggregate reporting) so Australians can see whether supply chains are clean.

Given the Senate inquiry into the effectiveness of sanctions against the Russian Federation, I'd also appreciate you supporting strong recommendations on this issue and advising your position.

Kind regards,

Simon Wever

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