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## **Sanctions against the Russian Federation**

**Committee:** [Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee](#)

**Date referred:** 5 November 2025

### **Submission to the Inquiry on Sanctions Against the Russian Federation**

Dear Committee Members,

As Australia faces growing geopolitical challenges and the complex ramifications of international sanctions against the Russian Federation, I wish to address the terms set forth in the inquiry regarding these sanctions and their broader implications for Australia's domestic security.

#### **Context and Relevance of Submission**

The sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation since February 2022 have been a response to the aggressive policies of the Russian government, which are exacerbated by its alliances with nations like China and North Korea. This geopolitical landscape informs Australia's need to not only evaluate the effectiveness of its sanctions but also consider how it can bolster domestic security in anticipation of potential conflicts.

#### **1. Scope of Australian Sanctions Against Russia**

Since the escalation of hostilities initiated by Russia, Australia has pursued various sanctions aimed at curtailing the importation of Russian oil and identifying, seizing, and freezing financial assets. These measures are critical for undermining resources that support Russian military operations. By understanding the full scope of these actions, Australia can assess the direct impacts on Russian capabilities and the flow of funds that sustain its aggression.

#### **2. Intended Effects and Effectiveness of Sanctions**

The effectiveness of these sanctions is measured not only by their immediate economic impacts but also by their ability to deter further aggression.

It is essential to compare Australia's sanctions with those of allied countries in the Coalition of the Willing, to evaluate the collective pressure being placed on Russia. Such an analysis aids in understanding how Australia can refine its approach to maximize effectiveness.

### **3. Evading Sanctions and Russian Retaliation**

As the inquiry explores Russia's methods to evade sanctions, it is vital to acknowledge the potential increase in hostility toward countries like Australia that participate in these international efforts. The ramifications of these actions may manifest as cyberattacks, disinformation campaigns, or direct military provocations. Each response necessitates a corresponding enhancement of Australia's own defensive strategies.

### **4. Community Involvement and Resistance Strategies**

The community's attitude towards sanctions and national security can significantly influence Australia's resilience. Given that the capacity of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) may encounter limitations, the establishment of a robust National Civil Defence framework could provide an essential complement to military efforts. By training citizens in emergency preparedness and crisis response, we create a broader security net that enhances national resilience against potential aggressors, including the Russian Federation's allies.

#### **Proposal for National Civil Defence**

A National Civil Defence initiative could involve training and empowering citizens to support the ADF amidst emerging threats. This program reflects successful models, such as Switzerland's, and nurtures a culture of preparedness and solidarity essential for national defence amidst foreign aggression. The proposal highlights the importance of civilian readiness in a modern conflict environment, especially against the backdrop of Australia's geopolitical vulnerabilities.

The Swift model for national civil defence aligns well with the Australian context, particularly considering the values associated with ANZAC (Australian and New Zealand Army Corps). Here's a concise outline of how these elements connect:

#### **1. Historical Context**

- **ANZAC Spirit** : Represents resilience and unity, echoing civil defence principles and fostering national pride.
- **Collective Memory** : ANZAC Day reminds Australians of shared responsibility for national safety.

#### **2. Community Engagement**

- **Volunteerism** : The ANZAC legacy encourages community involvement, vital for emergency services and civil defence.

- **Local Knowledge** : Community participation enhances preparedness through culturally relevant responses.

### 3. Preparedness and Resilience

- **Education** : Ongoing training based on ANZAC history strengthens community resilience in crises.

### 4. Holistic Approach

- **Integrating Values** : The Swift model's comprehensive approach reflects ANZAC values for ethical decision-making.

### 5. Intergovernmental Cooperation

- **Coordination** : The ANZAC legacy supports collaboration across federal, state, and local governments in civil defence.

### 6. Cultural Sensitivity

- **Diversity** : Recognizing diverse cultures enriches civil defence, ensuring inclusivity rooted in the ANZAC spirit.
- **Trust-Building** : Strengthened community trust leads to better cooperation in defence initiatives.

### 7. Adaptability

- **Historical Lessons** : ANZAC resilience fosters adaptability in evolving threats like climate change.
- **Innovative Solutions** : Encouraging creativity in civil defence reflects adaptive qualities inspired by ANZAC forces.

The Swift model's focus on community, resilience, and historical context, rooted in the ANZAC spirit, can enhance Australia's national civil defence strategy, making it both effective and culturally relevant.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, Australia must uphold its unwavering stance on sanctions against the Russian Federation. However, it is equally important to evaluate the potential implications of these measures for our national security. Notably, several reputable Australian military strategy institutes have warned of the possibility of a significant conflict emerging involving Australia as early as 2027.

**Sincerely,**

Lawrence Lyons