

Minister for Energy and Renewables
Minister for Parks
Minister for Sport



Level 1, 7-9 Franklin Wharf HOBART TAS 7000 Australia
GPO Box 123 HOBART TAS 7001 Australia
Phone: +61 3 6165 7739
Email: minister.duigan@dpac.tas.gov.au

Ms Helen Burnet MP
Independent Member for Clark
Via Clerk of the House of Assembly
laura.ross@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Burnet

I am writing in response to your question from a constituent about the importance of ensuring Australia's sanctions on Russia are properly observed, including in relation to oil and petroleum products.

I share your concern and agree that compliance with sanctions is a serious matter. The Tasmanian Government expects all Tasmanian Government departments, statutory authorities and Government Businesses to conduct their activities lawfully and responsibly, including complying with all applicable Australian sanctions laws. This expectation applies across procurement, contracting and supply-chain decisions, and is reinforced through standard governance, risk management and assurance processes.

That said, determining whether a particular fuel or petroleum product has a direct or indirect connection to sanctioned Russian entities can be complex. Global energy supply chains are long, international and often involve multiple stages of processing, blending, shipping and wholesale trading. These features can make it difficult for end-jurisdictions or individual purchasers to definitively trace origin in all circumstances, particularly once products have entered international markets.

Under Australia's constitutional and legal framework, the responsibility for imposing, administering and enforcing sanctions sits with the Australian Government, not state or territory governments.

In Australia:

- Sanctions regimes are established under Commonwealth law, primarily the *Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011* and the *Charter of the United Nations Act 1945*.
- The Australian Sanctions Office, within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is the lead authority responsible for administering sanctions, providing guidance to businesses, issuing permits where applicable, and investigating potential breaches.
- Compliance and enforcement may also involve the Australian Federal Police, Australian Border Force and AUSTRAC, particularly where issues relate to criminal conduct, imports, exports or financial transactions.

Australian companies are legally responsible for ensuring their own compliance with sanctions law, including through due diligence on counterparties and supply chains. Where there is uncertainty, businesses are expected to seek advice from the Australian Sanctions Office or obtain appropriate legal guidance.

While Tasmania does not have jurisdiction to regulate or enforce sanctions, we remain committed to acting consistently with Australia's foreign policy settings and to engaging cooperatively with the Commonwealth where sanctions-related issues are identified or raised. We also expect Tasmanian Government entities to engage responsibly with suppliers and counterparties in line with Commonwealth requirements.

Thank you for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'N' followed by a circular flourish and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Nick Duigan MLC
Minister for Energy and Renewables