

**CENESS, Moscow**

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**Russia – Australia Nuclear  
Cooperation**

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# INTRODUCTION

- **Russia-Australia Nuclear Cooperation Agreement signed 7 September 2007**
  - **EIF 11 November 2010.**
- **Replaces 1990 agreement, covered ‘toll processing’ for third countries.**
- **New NCA broadens relationship between our countries**
  - **use of Australian uranium in Russian reactors**
  - **framework for broader cooperation.**

# AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR POLICY

- **Established 1977 – similar to US, Canada**
  - **to ensure AONM used for exclusively peaceful purposes.**
- **Must be treaty-level agreement**
  - **legally-binding peaceful use commitment**
  - **consent rights on retransfers, enrichment, reprocessing**
  - **identifying material and items subject to NCA**
  - **reports to ASNO, to support ‘tracking’.**

# Australian policy

- For NNWS party to NPT, IAEA 'comprehensive' [fullscope] safeguards apply to all nuclear material.
- For NWS, AONM must be held, processed or used in facilities eligible for IAEA safeguards.

# HISTORY OF NCA

- **Informal approach 2000 to expand 1990 agreement**
- **Model suggested, based on ‘programmatic consent’**
  - **agreed Eligible Facilities List.**
- **Did not proceed at that time, model used for 2006 Australia/China agreement [eif 2007].**
- **Formal negotiation of Russia/Australia agreement started December 2006, signed September 2007.**
- **Eligible Facilities List, with substitution for conversion and some enrichment.**

# Issues

- **Eligible Facilities List, with substitution for conversion and some enrichment**
  - **not well understood.**
- **Need for ‘Administrative Arrangements’ [MOU]**
  - **less than treaty status – delayed by MFA.**

# **FUTURE**

- **NCA will allow uranium transfers [when MOU completed!]**
  - **scope for nuclear R&D collaboration [eg Synroc].**
- **Policy consultations**
  - **range of topics: NSG, AP as condition of supply, FMCT, Middle East NWFZ, disarmament verification, multinational approaches to NFC, proliferation-resistance, specific cases such as Iran and DPRK.**

# Fuel cycle collaboration?

- **Current Australian policy prohibits further stages of NFC**
  - **best opportunity here is collaboration on new international framework for nuclear energy**
  - **what might this mean in practice?**
  - **how to minimise proliferation risk?**
- **Further possibilities speculative**
  - **policy on nuclear energy could change with CO2 limits, pricing**
  - **involvement in international fuel cycle centre??**