



## Submission No 54

### **Inquiry into Australia's Relations with the Republic of Korea; and Developments on the Korean Peninsula**

**Organisation: Australian Customs Service**

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**Australian Government**  
**Australian Customs Service**

Customs House  
5 Constitution Ave  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

20 October 2005

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Department of the House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Dr John Carter

Dear Dr Carter

On 20 September 2005 Customs appeared before the inquiry into Australia's relationship with the Republic of Korea; and developments on the Korean peninsula, held in Sydney.

During the inquiry, Customs took a question on notice from Senator Stott Despoja concerning uranium exports to Korea.

I would be pleased if you would accept the attached response to the Senator's question, which has been provided by Customs Trade Branch, in conjunction with the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources.

Yours sincerely

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National Manager  
TRADE MEASURES BRANCH

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**Question:** Senator Stott Despoja - I want to ask about the export of uranium. I am not really au fait with how people go about getting valid permits through customs, and, in the case of Korean companies, getting access to valid permits for the purposes of exporting uranium. Can you talk us through that? Have there been some difficulties?

**Answer:** Exports of uranium require a mineral export permit to be issued by the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources under regulation 9 of the *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958*. Permits are granted providing exporters meet Australian safeguards and environmental requirements. Permits have been granted to the three Australian uranium mine operators who may export uranium to Korea. Currently there are no Korean companies holding mineral export permits for export of uranium. At this stage there have been no permit applications from Korean companies.