



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
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## CANADA AND AUSTRALIA SIGN NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Mark MacGuigan, and the Australian High Commissioner to Canada, H.E. Mr. B.G. Dexter, have signed today an Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of Australia concerning the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The agreement replaces the "Agreement Between Australia and Canada for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy" of October 7, 1959. The new agreement was negotiated in accordance with the nuclear safeguards policies of Canada and Australia.

As with all of Canada's bilateral nuclear safeguards agreements concluded to date, the agreement with Australia fully satisfies the government's nuclear safeguards requirements. It provides, *inter alia*, for the prohibition of explosive and military use, the application of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, "fallback" safeguards in the event that IAEA safeguards cease to apply, prior consent rights over processing, high enrichment and retransfers to third countries, and physical protection at internationally accepted levels.

This agreement covers transfers of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, equipment and technology between the two countries. As Canada and Australia are both uranium exporters, the main practical importance of the agreement is that it provides safeguards for Australian uranium while it is in Canada for conversion to uranium hexafluoride for ultimate use elsewhere. Because Canada is a major exporter of equipment and technology there is also the future possibility of the transfer to Australia of Canada nuclear equipment.

Both Canada and Australia have international reputations as strong supporters of non-proliferation. The Canada/Australia Agreement demonstrates the willingness of the two countries to apply their safeguards policy to each other as do their other nuclear partners.