Purpose

To prohibit ships carrying nuclear weapons from entering Australian waters.

Background

A previous Bill to prohibit nuclear weapons from Australian waters, the Australian Waters (Nuclear-Powered Ships and Nuclear Weapons Prohibition) Bill 1985, was restored to the Notice Paper by a Senate resolution on 22 February 1985, but failed to pass the Senate.


Main Provisions

Nuclear armed ships are prohibited from entering Australian waters by clause 5. Under this clause, such ships will be permitted in Australian waters only in the case of an emergency that threatens the ship or its crew, or in the exercise of its right of innocent passage.

A duty to prevent nuclear armed ships from entering Australian waters is imposed on the Commonwealth by clause 6.

Remarks

The Bill is part of a package of 6 anti-nuclear bills introduced by the Australian Democrats. The package comprises:
Australian Airspace (Nuclear Weapons Prohibition) Bill 1985

Australian Waters (Nuclear-Powered Ships Prohibition) Bill 1985

Australian Waters (Nuclear Weapons Prohibition) Bill 1985

Customs (Prohibition of Importation of Nuclear Hardware) Bill 1985

Customs (Prohibition of Exportation of Nuclear Materials) Bill 1985

Nuclear Weapons Prohibitions Bill 1985

For further information, if required, contact:

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