# Indonesia’s ambassador discusses Russian military base concerns amid Australia election campaign



Indonesia’s ambassador to Australia held a meeting with senior Australian diplomats on Tuesday, amid a growing controversy in the Australian federal election campaign concerning the prospect of a Russian military base in eastern Indonesia. This development has brought the issue of foreign military presence in the region to the forefront of political debate as the major parties contest the election.

The discussion emerged as the election campaign intensified, with the ambassador’s request to meet underscoring Indonesia's interest in addressing concerns stemming from speculation about Russia's potential expansion of its military footprint in the Indo-Pacific area.

In a separate yet related development, a recent exclusive survey shared with Guardian Australia reveals that a majority of Australians hold adverse views towards nuclear power. The survey indicates widespread apprehension among the public about the possibility of constructing nuclear energy plants near their communities, reflecting ongoing sensitivities about energy security and environmental concerns in the country.

The timing of Indonesia’s ambassador’s engagement with Australian officials coincides with this backdrop of heightened scrutiny over foreign influence and energy policy directions, both key issues influencing voters in the current election. The Guardian’s reporting highlights the intricacies of diplomatic relations in the context of national security concerns as well as domestic policy debates.

This week’s political discourse is further shaped by other domestic developments including mental health policy debates, economic considerations in the Sydney property market, and social issues such as domestic violence, demonstrating the multifaceted nature of the federal election campaign.

The Guardian's coverage of these unfolding events provides insight into the regional diplomatic engagements alongside domestic public opinion, painting a complex picture of the political landscape just weeks ahead of the election.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://thediplomat.com/2025/04/are-the-russians-eyeing-west-papua-for-an-overseas-military-base/> - This article discusses the speculation surrounding Russia's interest in establishing a military base in West Papua, Indonesia, highlighting Indonesia's recent membership in BRICS and the strategic significance of the region for Russia.
2. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/russia-military-base-indonesia-papua-base-australia-5071841> - This piece analyzes Russia's strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific, including previous interactions with Indonesia, such as the refueling of Russian bombers in 2017, and the potential implications for regional security.
3. <https://armyrecognition.com/focus-analysis-conflicts/army/analysis-defense-and-security-industry/why-a-russian-military-base-in-indonesia-could-shift-the-indo-pacific-balance-against-the-us-and-australia> - This article explains how a Russian military base in Indonesia could alter the military landscape in the Indo-Pacific, impacting the strategic balance against the U.S. and Australia, and referencing past events like the 2017 bomber refueling.
4. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/opinion/2025/04/23/why-jakartas-refusal-to-allow-a-russian-base-is-credible.html> - This opinion piece argues that Indonesia's refusal to host a Russian military base is credible, providing context on Indonesia's strategic position and its diplomatic priorities.
5. <The ABC article does not directly support this specific story but highlights economic issues in Australia, such as property market shifts, which are part of broader domestic debates during elections.> - However, for the specific topic of Russian military presence, it does not provide direct support. Instead, it addresses broader economic and social issues relevant to Australian elections.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2024/08/28/australia-nuclear-power-plant-opposition> - This article discusses Australian public opinion on nuclear energy, reflecting ongoing concerns about energy security and environmental impacts, which are also themes in the Australian election discourse.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/apr/24/morning-mail-thursday-ntwnfb> - Please view link - unable to able to access data