



## **AUSTRALIA AND TIMOR-LESTE MARITIME BOUNDARIES**

### **FACT SHEET**

- For the first time, Australia and Timor-Leste have agreed a permanent maritime boundary.
- On 6 March 2018, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, and Timor-Leste's Deputy Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Boundary Delimitation, His Excellency Mr Hermenegildo Pereira, signed the Treaty Between Australia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Establishing Their Maritime Boundaries in the Timor Sea.
- The Treaty was reached through the first conciliation undertaken by parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The treaty was signed in the presence of the UN Secretary-General and the Conciliation Commission members.
- The UNCLOS Conciliation Commission and both parties agree the treaty is balanced, equitable and consistent with international law.
- The Treaty covers the legal status of the Greater Sunrise gas fields, creating the Greater Sunrise Special Regime for the joint development, exploitation and management of the Greater Sunrise gas fields.
- The Conciliation Commission has worked extensively with the parties to broker a way forward on Greater Sunrise and has presented its conclusions to Timor-Leste and Australia. We look forward to building on the Commission's analysis and will continue to discuss the development concept for Greater Sunrise bilaterally.
- The treaty is expressly without prejudice to the legal position of the parties. It reflects a mutual accommodation between the parties. Negotiations on the treaty were undertaken in good faith and compromises were made by both parties in order to secure agreement.
- As Australia identified in its 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper, the treaty is a testament to the way in which international law reinforces stability and allows countries to resolve disputes peacefully. It is an example of the rules-based order in action.
- While Australia and Timor-Leste signed the Treaty on 6 March, it will not enter into force until both governments subsequently ratify it.
- The treaty marks the beginning of a new era in Australia and Timor-Leste's relationship. It will further strengthen the longstanding and deep ties between our governments and peoples.