

TIMOR SEA JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

6 March 2018

Today Australia and Timor-Leste signed a treaty that will finally establish permanent maritime boundaries in the Timor Sea.

This is a huge win for the Timorese people and the people like you who stood in solidarity with them.

Thank you so very much for supporting the Timor Sea Justice Campaign.

Over the years the Australian Government has tried every trick in the book to try to short-change our Timorese neighbours out of billions of dollars in oil and gas revenues, but because of your support, we've been able to take a stand each and every time to call out our Government's greed.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

The treaty will establish permanent boundaries along the median line halfway between the two nations -- which is what the Timorese have asked for all along.

The width of the side boundaries have also been increased from the limited area previously covered by the Joint Petroleum Development Area. This means Timor will receive a far larger share of the Greater Sunrise field.

If the gas ends up being piped 450 or so kilometres to Darwin for processing -- where Australia will reap the downstream economic benefits of jobs and related activities, then Timor will receive 80% of the Government revenue. If the gas is piped 150km to Timor, then the Timorese will receive 70% of the government revenue.

Given Australia initially offered Timor a miserly 18% of the government revenue from Greater Sunrise, this outcome is a significant improvement and testament to the patience and determination of the Timorese people and their Governments to stand up in the face of a regional bully and claim their sovereign rights.

So what's next? The treaty will now need to be ratified by both parliaments and the two governments will need to decide how the field will be developed. We'll be engaging with any subsequent Australian parliamentary scrutiny of the treaty and will continue to share information about the pipeline debate on our social media channels.

The aim of the Timor Sea Justice Campaign has always been to convince the Australian Government to negotiate permanent maritime boundaries with East Timor based along the median line in accordance with international law.

The treaty signed today will deliver exactly that.

Thanks for helping to secure this historic outcome.

Tom, Nick and Dan.

<http://www.timorseajustice.com/>