



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES

Report tabled

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Committee endorses bilateral negotiations on permanent maritime boundaries with Timor-Leste

Today, the [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties](#) tabled its [report](#) on amendments to the [Treaty between Australia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea](#) (CMATS Treaty).

Committee Chair, the [Hon Stuart Robert MP](#) said the proposed amendments reviewed by the Committee are a result of Timor-Leste terminating the CMATS Treaty, and are limited in scope.

“Termination of a treaty usually means it ceases to have effect. However, the CMATS Treaty contains clauses that continue beyond termination, and would re-enliven the whole Treaty if the Greater Sunrise resource is developed in the future,” Mr Robert said.

“The Committee supports the proposed amendments to the CMATS Treaty prior to its termination on 10 April 2017.

The Committee recognises that the termination of the CMATS Treaty is the first step towards developing a permanent maritime boundary in the Timor Sea. The Committee is of the strong view that the maritime boundary dispute should be negotiated bilaterally and in good faith, and commends both Governments for agreeing to operate by these principles.

In supporting the proposed treaty action, the Committee has also requested briefings from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade every six months until a permanent maritime boundary is agreed with Timor-Leste.

“These briefings will assist the Committee in its ongoing role of treaty oversight. They will also ensure a thorough review of future treaty action when an agreement with Timor-Leste is reached,” Mr Robert said.

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