



THE HON ALEXANDER DOWNER MP

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

12 JAN 2006

José Ramos-Horta
Senior Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Palácio do Governo
Av Presidente Nicolau Lobato
Dili
Timor-Leste

Dear Minister

I am writing to you concerning the application of paragraph 2 of Article 4 of the *Treaty between the Government of Australia and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea* to the area of seabed outside the Joint Petroleum Development Area established under the *Timor Sea Treaty* and south of the line established by the *Agreement between the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia Establishing Certain Seabed Boundaries in the Area of the Timor and Arafura Seas, Supplementary to the Agreement of 18 May 1971*.

As at 19 May 2002, Australian legislation applying to the area referred to in the preceding paragraph authorised the granting of permission for conducting activities in relation to petroleum or other resources of the seabed and subsoil. That legislation included the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1967* and the *Offshore Minerals Act 1994*. Accordingly, Australia will continue activities (including the regulation and authorisation of existing and new activities) in that area.

I seek your confirmation that, as at 19 May 2002, Timor-Leste had no legislation applying to that area giving rise to the application of paragraph 2 of Article 4.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Downer', written in a cursive style.

Alexander Downer