

Pacific Beat with Catherine Graue

Timor-Leste intent on reducing its reliance on oil and gas: Anne Ruston

By Stephen Dziedzic on Pacific Beat

Australia's Assistant Minister for the Pacific Anne Ruston has said the fledging nation of Timor-Leste is intent on reducing its reliance on oil and gas.

Senator Ruston visited Timor-Leste last week, which coincided with Dili's announcement that it would buy another stake in the Greater Sunrise oil and gas fields.

The country is [pressing ahead with its contentious plan to build a pipeline and processing plant on its south coast](#) — which its government says is crucial to its national development, but most analysts aren't convinced it's a workable plan.

"We have to remember this is a commercial decision for the Timor-Leste government, and we have to respect that decision," Senator Ruston said.

While there, Senator Ruston also announced that Australia will open up the Pacific Labour Scheme to workers from Timor-Leste.

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