

The Hon Julie Bishop MP.

Chair Joint Standing Committee  
on Treaties

Parliament House  
Canberra ACT

Timor Sea Treaty  
Submission No: 75

RMB5250

Wattle Lee Rd

Wolgate NSW  
2250

27/8/2002

RECEIVED  
11 SEP 2002  
BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Mr. Bishop,

I am concerned that in its present form the Timor Sea Treaty does not guarantee the best interest of East Timor. It is of paramount importance that the Treaty should offer a fair long term deal for East Timor.

The maritime boundaries issue should be reviewed, under current terms the largest gas field in the area, Greater Sunrise, provides Australia with nearly eighty percent of the production.

East Timor's position is that most of Greater Sunrise field belongs to it & there is sound legal basis for this position as lines of equidistance has been the preferred method for the International Court of Justice to delineate maritime zones between states less than 400 nautical miles apart.

It is of concern that Australia withdrew from dispute settlement procedures offered by the 1982 UNCLOS the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea.

278  
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON TREATIES  
RECEIVED  
18 SEP 2002  
BY: G.B. Gould

The treaty in its present form does not spell out East Timor's entitlement to development related training & employment, & so, the country's capacity to gain more employment & development benefits may be jeopardised.

Ratification of the treaty without addressing these issues would be detrimental to East Timor & Australia as well as an economically viable & stable East Timor is in Australia's best interest.

The poorest & newest nation in the world will depend on the resources of the Timor Sea to achieve their goals & Australia should establish a reasonable time frame of about five years in which to settle boundaries.

Sincerely

Ann Marshall