



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Report tabling

Issue date: 15 August 2018

Timor Sea boundary dispute fixed

The Joint Standing Committee on Treaties today tabled a report supporting the agreement establishing the maritime boundary between Australia and Timor-Leste.

Committee Chair, [the Hon Stuart Robert MP](#), said that the dispute over the Timor Sea maritime boundary, which has been simmering since the 1970s, has now been resolved.

The treaty also establishes a regime for the joint development, exploitation and management of the Timor Sea petroleum deposits.

The attempt to resolve the maritime boundary dispute began with Portugal in 1971, and has since involved Indonesia, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor and finally Timor-Leste.

The dispute was resolved after a conciliation process between Australia and Timor-Leste under the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*. This is the first time such conciliation has taken place, and it is expected to set a benchmark for the successful resolution of maritime boundary disputes.

“The treaty is not just a win for Australia and Timor-Leste. It is an example to other countries of what international law can achieve in resolving disputes,” Mr Robert said.

Report 180 also reports on the Peru - Australia Free Trade Agreement, the Australia - EU Framework Agreement, the World Intellectual Property Organization - Australian Patent Office Agreement, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation agreements with Brazil and Italy.

The Committee has recommended the ratification of all the treaties considered in Report 180.

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