



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

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Joint Standing Committee on Treaties

Public Hearing

Issue date: 9 March 2017

Hearing into Submarines and Timor Sea arrangements by Treaties Committee

Thursday 9 March 2017

The [Joint Standing Committee on Treaties](#) will hold a public hearing in Canberra on Tuesday 14 March on the *Framework Agreement for the Future Submarine Program* and the amendments to the *Agreement for Certain Maritime Arrangements in the Timor Sea*.

Submarines: DCNS Australia and Department of Defence to appear

The Committee is reviewing the [Framework Agreement for the Future Submarine Program](#). This Agreement will cover governance and performance of the contract with DCNS. It includes agreements on the transfer of technology, Australia's sovereign operation, local industry engagement, and research and development.

Committee Chair, [the Hon Stuart Robert MP](#), says the Framework Agreement under review is critical for the Future Submarine Program's success.

"On Wednesday the Committee travelled to Adelaide, the centre of the Future Submarine Program. The Committee heard in Adelaide that the Agreement's obligations to maximise local industry engagement must be read in conjunction with the relevant contracts between Australia and DCNS as the international design partner", said Mr Robert.

"The Committee also heard that obtaining the intellectual property rights from France is vital for Australia's sovereign operation of the Future Submarine. The next hearing will be an opportunity for the Committee to question the government officials on these matters, as well as the acting CEO of DCNS Australia."



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Photo courtesy of ASC: Joint Standing Committee on Treaties site visit to ASC North in Adelaide, 8 March 2017. Left to right: Mr Josh Wilson MP, Ms Nola Marino MP, the Hon Stuart Robert MP (Chair), Senator Kimberley Kitching, Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald, Senator David Fawcett.

Amendments to Certain Maritime Arrangements in Timor Sea Agreement

The Committee is reviewing [amendments to the CMATS Treaty](#) which is one of the Agreements between Australia and Timor-Leste about natural resources in the Timor Sea.

Mr Robert explained that the proposed amendments under review 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” said Mr Robert.

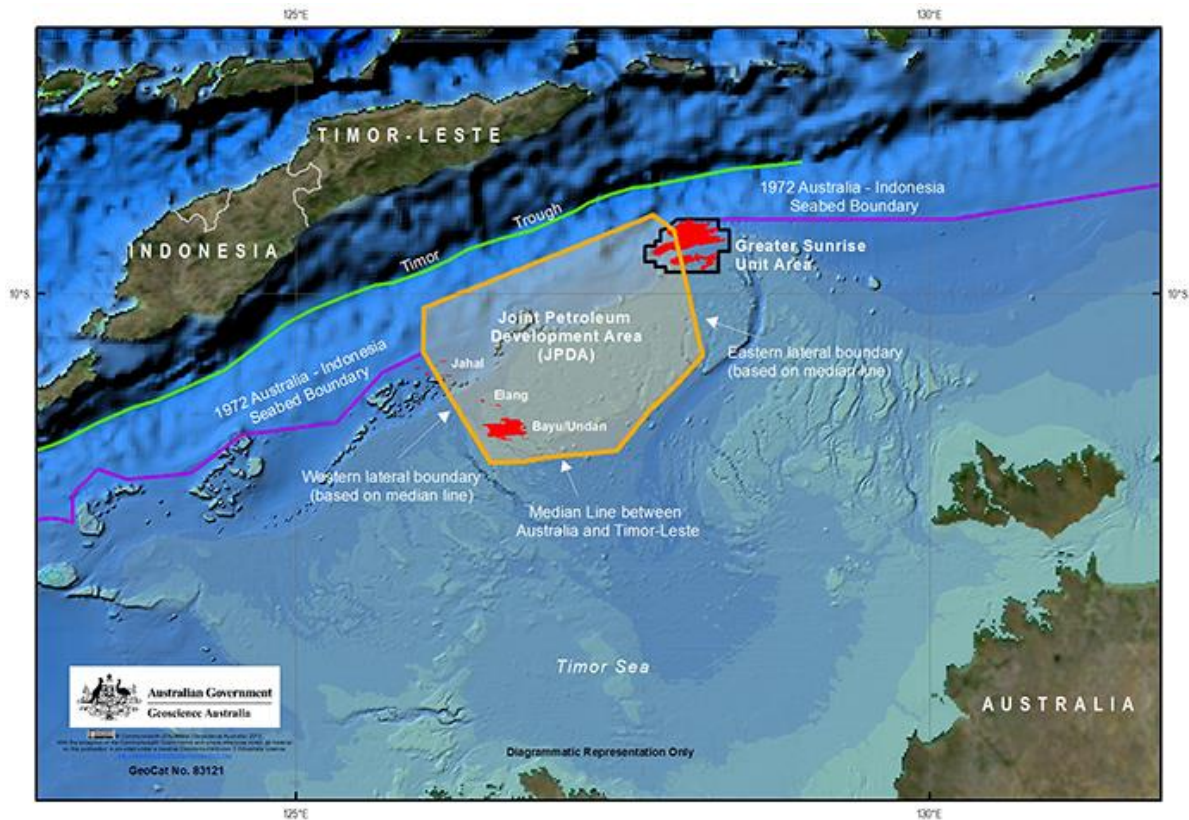
“Although Australia agreed to the termination of the CMATS treaty, it marks a shift in position from previous agreements on the Timor Sea. The Committee will be seeking evidence as to why Australia has shifted its position and what the regional impact will be” said Mr Robert.

The Committee has agreed to expedite its consideration of the proposed amendments following a request from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon Julie Bishop MP. The Committee is due to report on 30 March 2017.



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Map: Maritime arrangements in the Timor Sea

Public hearing program

Tuesday 14 March 2017, Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House Canberra

Framework Agreement for Future Submarine Program

- 8.30 am Mr Brett Walker
- 9.00 am Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
- 9.30 am Australian Strategic Policy Institute
- 10.15 am University of New South Wales, Faculty of Engineering
- 10.45 am Mr Mike Deeks
- 11.15 am Department of Defence, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- 12.30 pm *Break*
- 1.30 pm DCNS Australia

Certain Maritime Arrangements – Timor-Leste

- 2.30 pm Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Attorney-General's Department, Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
- 3.15 pm Academic expert panel (Prof Don Anton, Prof Clive Schofield, Dr Rebecca Strating)

The public hearing will be live broadcast and available [here](#).



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