

## TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

We, the undersigned citizens of Australia, draw to the attention of the House the significant role played by the East Timorese people in providing unique assistance to Australia.

- We are mindful that the decreasing number of veterans who fought on Timor in World War II remember the Timorese people with deep gratitude, as did those who have died;
- We recall that for the last seventy years they have told and retold the stories of the courage and compassion of the Timorese;
- We regret that there has been no adequate official recognition of the role of the Timorese in assisting Australia in World War II;
- We remember that at the very least, 40,000 Timorese civilians were killed as a result of their assistance to Australia.

We therefore ask the House to ensure that appropriate action is taken to support our nomination of the **Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste** as a recipient of the **Companion of the Order of Australia (Honorary)**.