



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON TREATIES (JSCOT) INQUIRY EXAMINING
THE CONSEQUENCES OF TERMINATION OF THE TREATY BETWEEN
AUSTRALIA AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF TIMOR-LESTE ON
CERTAIN MARITIME ARRANGEMENTS IN THE TIMOR SEA**

Question

The Hon Stuart Robert MP, Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties asked the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT):

Can the department provide to the committee a nice synopsis of public comments made by East Timorese officials and/or government ministers with respect to their view of their treatment or otherwise in the Greater Sunrise Unit Area?

Answer

Below are comments made by Timor-Leste ministers regarding Greater Sunrise. These remarks include translations from the Open Source Centre (OSC) of the Office of National Assessments, which have been drawn from local Timorese media. Local media does not always report accurately.

26 June 2015 – Timor-Leste Prime Minister Rui de Araújo: “We want the pipeline to come onshore,” de Araújo said.

“We can develop our oil and gas industry, a big supply base, on the south coast,” de Araújo said, suggesting that this is a long-term goal. He indicated that Timor-Leste seeks to use natural gas from the Greater Sunrise project to help establish an industrial zone.

21 February 2013 – Timor-Leste Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Alfredo Pires: “I wish to say that our recent concern focused on the duration of the Treaty, which is very long, and on the search for a viable means that allows us to unilaterally choose to withdraw from the same Treaty without engaging into a confrontation with the Australian Government”.

“Regardless of the diversity of opinions that may exist insofar as the CMATS Treaty is concerned, our stance as regards *Greater Sunrise* to bring the oil and gas pipeline to Timor-Leste as regards is maintained”.