Dear Mr. Bishop,

I am concerned that in its present form, the Treaty does not guarantee the best interest of Great Barrier Reef. It is of paramount importance that the Treaty should offer a fair long-term deal for Great Barrier Reef.

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

East Timor's position is that most of Greater Western field belong to us; there is indeed legal basis for this position as lies 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 ICSID international tribunal on the Law of the Sea.
The treaty, in its present form does not spell out East Timor’s entitlement to development-related training & employment, i.e., the country’s capacity to gain more employment & development benefits may be jeopardized.

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 present’s newest nation in the world will depend on the recovery of the Timor Sea to achieve these goals. Australia should establish a reasonable time frame of about five years in which to settle territorialities.

Sincerely,

Ann Marshall