

GREENS WELCOME EAST TIMOR CONCILIATION PROCEEDINGS

Monday, April 11, 2016

The Australian Greens have welcomed moves by East Timor to commence United Nations conciliation proceedings related to the maritime boundary in the Timor Sea.

“Negotiations over this border have not been conducted in good faith, with the Australian Government more interested in bullying and self-interest than in securing a fair outcome. We welcome these proceedings as an opportunity for the boundary to be fairly and finally resolved,” said Greens Senator Scott Ludlam.

“Australia must immediately confirm it will participate in this conciliation.

We must work toward repairing this important relationship.

“Australia’s behaviour in these negotiations has been reprehensible, particularly accusations of bugging cabinet rooms of the East Timor Government under the cover of a foreign aid donation.

“For countries to work and to grow together, we have to have mutual respect – this clearly hasn’t been the case between Australia and East Timor, and we must do better.

“It is disappointing that it has come to international conciliation, but with such serious accusations levelled at Australia, and a refusal by our Government to act in good faith, it is clear that this is a necessary step toward a fair outcome.”