



26 AUG 2002



Queensland
Government

Timor Sea Treaty
Submission No: 56

Premier of Queensland

Please quote: 4426&5197/DM11/Policy Systems

22 AUG 2002

Ms Julie Bishop MP
Committee Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RECEIVED
21 AUG 2002

BY: G.L. Gordon

Dear Ms Bishop

Thank you for your letters of 18 and 25 June 2002, inviting the Queensland Government to provide comment on various proposed international treaties that are being reviewed by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

Having considered these treaties and their respective national interest analyses, I do not consider that the proposed treaty actions create concerns for Queensland. The Queensland Government specifically supports several of the tabled treaty proposals.

Bilateral treaty actions with East Timor regarding the Timor Sea

Queensland has significant interest in the Commonwealth successfully finalising and implementing the Timor Sea Treaty. The nature of the Treaty and the manner in which it is implemented and administered may impact on the timing and manner of resource development in the Timor Sea.

The Queensland Government has a strong interest in gas resource development. The *Queensland Energy Policy – A Cleaner Energy Strategy* includes a range of elements designed to stimulate the development of competitively priced gas in Queensland. Queensland has offered public support for all potential future sources of gas, including those from the Timor Sea, in order to assist with achieving these objectives.

The Greater Sunrise gas field, which is partly (20%) located within the Joint Petroleum Development Area, is of current interest to Queensland. Despite the *Exchange of Notes constituting an Agreement between Australia and East Timor concerning Arrangements for Exploration and Exploitation of Petroleum in an Area of the Timor Sea* providing a continuation of the existing arrangements, the lack of resolution on maritime boundaries

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between Australia and East Timor continues to create uncertainty for the project partners involved in the development of the gas reserves. The Queensland Government encourages the Commonwealth Government to quickly resolve the issue of maritime boundaries with East Timor and ensure a just benefit sharing arrangement is reached.

Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas

The Queensland Government supports this Agreement. While the Agreement will not affect the day to day activities of the Queensland Fisheries Service, the illegal unreported and unregulated fishing activities that this treaty seeks to reduce will have clear benefit for all fisheries within the Australian Exclusive Economic Zone, including those managed by the Queensland Government.

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

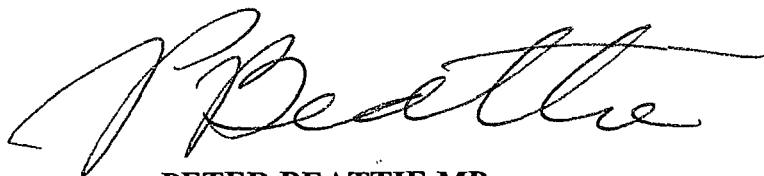
The Queensland Government has no objection to the ratification of this Convention. The measures proposed for domestic implementation of the Convention's obligations do not affect Queensland legislation or administrative responsibilities.

Agreement establishing the International Organisation of Vine and Wine

While the Queensland wine industry is comparatively small at present, considerable development is occurring, including the international promotion of Queensland wines. The treaty furthers Queensland's interests in improving security and opportunities for international harmonisation in the wine industry. By facilitating recognition of the validity of current Australian winemaking practices the treaty will create opportunities to expand Queensland's wine export market.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to consider and comment on these proposed treaty actions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Beattie', written in a cursive style.

**PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE**