



Don't rob their future... give East Timor a fair go in the Timor Sea

www.timorseajustice.org

John Howard, your credibility is on the line.

Fair's fair - let the independent umpire settle the dispute. Re-instate Australia's recognition of the International Court of Justice's jurisdiction on maritime boundaries.

What is the issue?

East Timor is currently negotiating maritime boundaries with Australia. East Timor wants to settle overlapping claims of Exclusive Economic Zones by following current International Law, which favours resolving such situations by establishing boundaries half way between the two countries.

However, as the Australian Government is currently profiting from gas and oil fields located much closer to East Timor than Australia, it is being uncooperative in negotiating permanent maritime boundaries with East Timor.

Two months before East Timor's independence, Australia preemptively withdrew from the maritime boundary jurisdiction of the two international arbitration bodies used to settle maritime boundary disputes; the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). This leaves East Timor with no legal forum in which to challenge Australia's actions.

The Australian Government continues to deplete gas and oil fields that are located closer to East Timor such as the Laminaria Corallina fields while East Timor, which is in desperate need of revenue to create a working health system and education system, cannot benefit from it its own natural wealth.

Since 1999, the Australian Government has taken over two billion dollars in contested oil and gas royalties that would belong to East Timor if permanent maritime boundaries were established in accordance with current principles of International Law.

The billions of dollars worth of Government royalties these fields will produce, would transform the lives of thousands of East Timorese who are facing widespread hunger and who are dying from preventable diseases.

On average, the Australian Government has taken over \$1 million in contested gas and oil royalties from East Timor every single day since 1999.

Take action!

Further maritime boundary negotiations between the Australian and East Timorese Government are likely to take place at the end of this month.

It is anticipated that the Australian Government will offer East Timor a \$3-4 billion compensation payment in return for East Timor postponing requests for permanent maritime boundaries for another 99 years. This is only a fraction of East Timor's legal entitlement.

Please write to John Howard and your local member of parliament and urge them to give East Timor a fair go! Tell John Howard that in the interests of justice and maintaining good relations with East Timor the Australian Government should, as a matter of urgency, negotiate with the East Timorese Government to rapidly establish fair maritime boundaries (in accordance with the median line principles of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and with equitable lateral boundaries) giving East Timor a just share of the revenue from oil and gas fields in the Timor Sea and the opportunity to escape continued debt and poverty.

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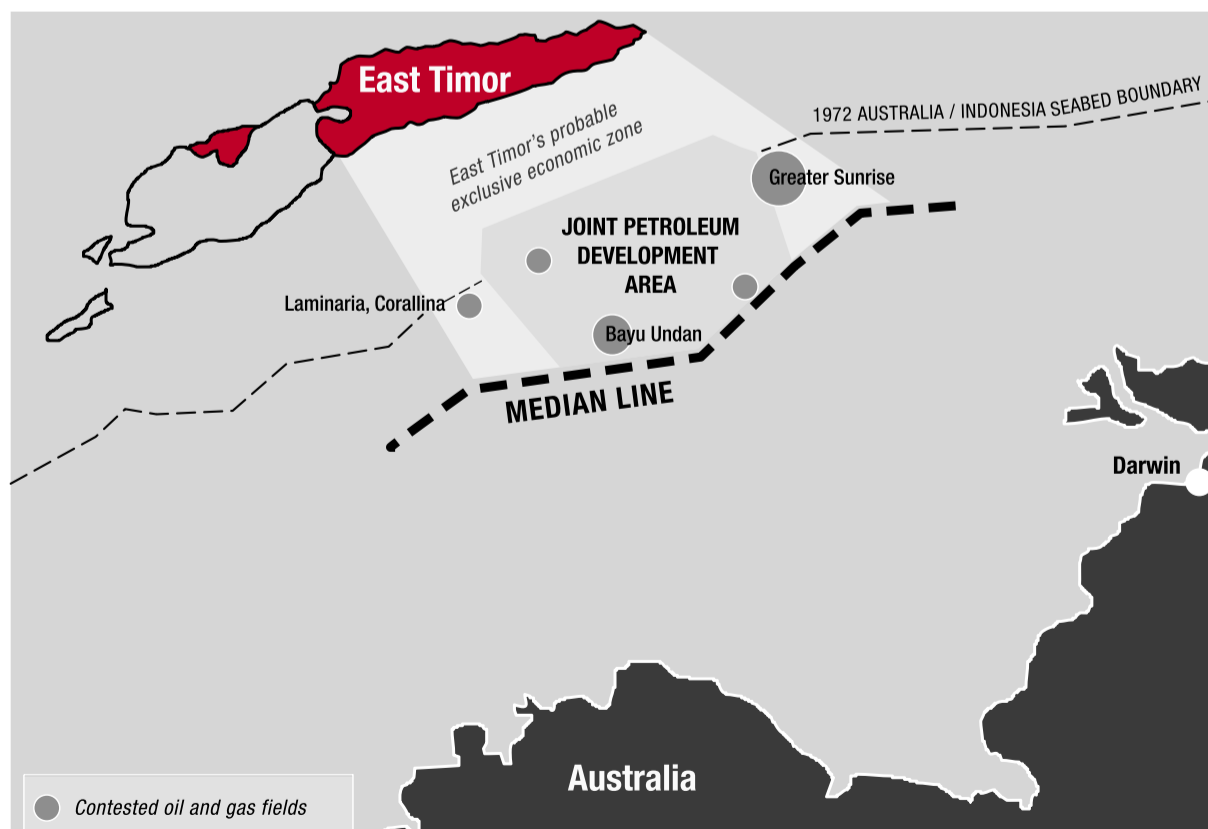
This issue is not about Australia being 'generous' this issue is about East Timor's legal entitlement.

The Timor Sea Justice Campaign

The Timor Sea Justice Campaign is an independent campaign made up of concerned Australians of various ages and professions working alongside a range of non-government organisations to bring about a fair deal for East Timor.

The Timor Sea Justice Campaign believes that East Timor should control all of the gas and oil fields it is entitled to under current international law, by the establishment of a permanent maritime boundary.

**For more information visit:
www.timorseajustice.org**



The Median Line is the halfway point between the two coastlines. According to current principles of International Law, the maritime boundary should be established along this line.

The Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) is an area in which East Timor and Australia have a temporary resource sharing agreement that provides the legal framework for development to occur while negotiations for maritime boundaries take place.

If permanent maritime boundaries were established in accordance with current International Law, East Timor's Exclusive Economic Zone would include all of the JPDA as well as most or all of the Laminaria, Corallina and Greater Sunrise fields.

East Timorese children are dying of preventable diseases. Please Prime Minister Howard, give the East Timorese their fair share so they can stand on their own two feet and overcome hunger and preventable diseases.

Please Prime Minister, take control of this issue. Finish the job you started in 1999.

Authorised by Ian Melrose, Booragoon, Western Australia.