

Annex 17:
Letter from Australia to Timor-Leste of 12 January 2017



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

12 January 2017

Mr Garth Schofield
Legal Counsel
Permanent Court of Arbitration
Peace Palace
Carnegieplein 2
2517 KJ The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Mr Schofield

Conciliation Proceedings under Article 298 and Annex V of UNCLS (PCA Case No. 2016-10) Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and Commonwealth of Australia

I write to inform you of recent steps taken by Australia to fulfil its undertakings in relation to the Australian Government's 2016 Offshore Petroleum Acreage Release Area 'W16-2'.

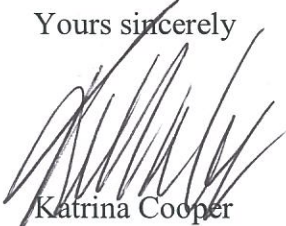
As part of the integrated package of confidence building measures Australia and Timor-Leste agreed to complete as part of the Conciliation Commission process, Australia committed to removing the area Timor-Leste identified as covered by its maritime boundary claim in Acreage Release Area W16-2.

I can confirm that Australia has now completed this step. On 10 January 2017, the Commonwealth-Western Australia Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority announced it had officially amended the block listing for Acreage Release Area W16-2 by removing the area in question. Timor-Leste was advised of these actions in writing on 12 January 2017.

I have attached a copy of the Gazette notice published by the Commonwealth of Australia that confirms the completion of this confidence building measure. An online version of this gazette notice is also available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017G00020>.

The action taken to amend Acreage Release Area W16-2 is without prejudice to Australia's position on its continental shelf and EEZ entitlements and on maritime delimitation between Australia and Timor-Leste.

Yours sincerely


Katrina Cooper
Co-Agent for Australia