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From: Lynette Chamas [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 February 2017 3:36 PM
To: White Paper
Subject: Submission on East Timor

Following please find my submission to the Dept of Foreign Affairs on East Timor.

When Indonesia invaded East Timor for the second time in 1999 the Australian people showed with which country their sympathies lay. Clearly, it was with our tiny neighbour.

With Australia's reputation as a country that respects human rights already under fire because of its treatment of refugees and the running sores of Nauru and Manus Island, it can ill-afford to be seen as a first world bully, rich with resources, trying to cheat a tiny fledgling country out of what little resources it has.

It is a national shame that, while there is a border around all of this country, there is none between East Timor and Australia simply because the natural resources lie on the Timorese side. To their eternal shame it was the Labor government that sat back and watched the Indonesian army run a trail of slaughter through East Timor, while quietly doing deals with oil companies to carve up the spoils.

Let it be a Liberal government, then, that rights this historic wrong. A border needs to be drawn between this wealthy country and its impoverished, war-damaged neighbour, one that places the natural resources of oil and gas in the Timor Strait clearly – once and for all – where they belong. In East Timor.

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