

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTICE OF MOTION

MEMBER FOR FOWLER: I give notice that on the next day of sitting I shall move—

That this House:

(1) Notes that:

- (a) Tensions have increased in the long-standing maritime and territorial disputes in the South China Sea which is being contested between six governments namely China, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan, Malaysia and the Philippines.
- (b) In 2002, parties to the dispute signed a ‘Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea’, which provides guidelines for managing tensions over this area. The Declaration proposed the drafting of a Code of Conduct between the parties, which to-date, has not eventuated.
- (c) On 1 May 2014, China deployed an oil rig in the vicinity of the Paracel and Spratly Islands
- (d) Significant demonstrations by Vietnamese citizens have occurred regarding this encroachment in this disputed Territory.
- (e) To-date the Philippines has been the only country to have filed a submission against China’s territorial claims in the region. A submission was filed in 2013 to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and another to the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration earlier this year.

(2) Calls on the Government to:

- a) Affirm that whilst Australia does not have any competing claims in the South China Sea, we have a strong interest in promoting peace and stability in the region.
- b) Encourage claimants to this territorial dispute to refrain from the using force or threat and to resolve their claims of sovereignty through peaceful negotiations in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea.

- c) Request parties to negotiate and adopt a binding regional Code of Conduct as specified under the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea which all parties signed onto in 2002.

Christy

MOVER

Jill Ball

SECONDER

Rec'd - Chamber
3:34pm 2/12/14
[Signature]