



International Transport Workers' Federation

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TO:

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Dear Sir/Madam,

The National Maritime Response Group has been important in providing high level departmental, agency and industry stakeholder engagement around the challenges facing the maritime industry and the broader supply networks. Whilst this engagement has developed a valuable flow of information in both directions, the opportunity to distil this into uniform guidance for states and territories must be the priority.

There is complete confusion across the states and territories in their implementation of national directions, which calls for informed national leadership to embed a coherent and consistent set of protocols that protect the Maritime transport chain from potential shutdowns.

The opportunities for influence through the various nationally coordinated guidance committees and structures must be exerted to remove the confusion that is endangering the most critical elements of industry.

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) must be included in all discussions on the formulation and application of this guidance to states and territories. The deepening crisis around international crew change, and the developing impact of inconsistencies across state and territory policy application on national essential worker movements, requires an urgent and coordinated federal focus.

The Federal government must:

- Establish and fund a dedicated task force to coordinate across state and federal government agencies
- Work with the aviation sector to facilitate flights for seafarer's repatriation
- Engage labour supply countries to better coordinate repatriation procedures for international seafarers
- Rationalise visa, permit, and exemption processes, to support crew changes directly
- Adopt the IMO recommended framework for crew joining and leaving their ships
- Work with Unions and Industry to ensure supply chain integrity in the domestic industry
- Establish "Green Lanes" for maritime crew repatriation
- Protect seafarers and the community through Australia's adherence to IMO protocols along with MLC and ILO conventions
- Mandate the supply of critical PPE to maritime workers
- Maintain testing and travel protocols specifically for maritime workers to expedite safe interstate travel

The inconsistent application of National Cabinet directions and the latest state border restrictions on movement for essential workers will have devastating consequences on the viability of transport operations and the interconnection of global and national trade.

Through a cooperative and consistent approach, preventative policy can be balanced against any exacerbation of the crisis in international and domestic maritime transport caused by further inconsistencies across states and territories.

Our Nation's reliance on maritime transport to maintain continuous supply has never been more obvious than during this pandemic and we continue to seek genuine cooperation internationally and locally, across all levels of Government and Industry, to develop consistent, sustainable guidance that protects workers, the community and Industry.

Yours sincerely



Paddy Crumlin
President ITF
National Secretary MUA