



Paddy Crumlin - National Secretary | **Will Tracey** - Deputy National Secretary
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31 January 2020

The Hon Scott Morrison MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By Email: scott.morrison.mp@aph.gov.au

Dear Prime Minister,

Re: Biosecurity

The Maritime Union of Australia (**MUA**) has significant concerns about the current gaps that exist in the biosecurity-net at our nation's ports.

With the global spread of Coronavirus widening daily, the MUA urges the Federal Government to implement strict Biosecurity controls across Australia's seaports. These controls need to identify the risks to Australia's Biosecurity, before foreign vessels enter the nation's ports.

Considering the threat posed to Australian communities by Coronavirus, the current system is grossly inadequate. As it presently stands, the onus is on foreign vessel Masters, ship owners and agents to self-declare that they do not pose a risk to Australia's Biosecurity.

Resources must be made available immediately to Australian Biosecurity agencies. Adequate resourcing will allow these agencies to identify vessels that may pose a risk to Biosecurity and perform on-board inspections, prior to the vessel entering an Australian port.

Australian Port and Maritime workers have always been on the frontline of Biosecurity defence in our nation's ports. These workers should not be the first interaction with vessels that may have been in contact with serious diseases, such as Coronavirus.

The agencies that protect our communities from the spread of deadly viruses must be adequately resourced, robust and dynamic to ensure they can respond appropriately to these types of viral threats.

We look forward to the Federal Governments immediate response.

Yours faithfully

Paddy Crumlin
Divisional National Secretary