



# MONTHLY INDUSTRIAL NEWSLETTER

Official MUA WA Branch Members Update

## WA Branch **June SWM Cancelled** due to COVID Restrictions

### In this newsletter:

- COVID-19 Maritime Directions
- Offshore
- Inshore
- Teekay
- SERCO Defence Maritime
- Svitzer
- DP World
- Fremantle Ports
- LINX Fremantle
- Patrick Terminal
- Programmed Industrial Maintenance
- QUBE Fremantle
- CBH
- BAE
- Bunbury Southern Ports Authority
- LINX ABH
- North West
  - Inshore EA's
  - LINX Dampier
  - QUBE Port Hedland
  - CSL Donnacona

### Comrades,

#### **COVID-19 MARITIME DIRECTIONS - EXPOSED ON-BOARD WORKER DIRECTIONS**

On June 2nd the WA Government issued 4 new COVID-19 Directions which come into effect on July 2nd. The most relevant of the 4 Directions to our membership is the Exposed On-Board Worker Directions.

The worst aspects of the Exposed On-Board Worker Directions mean that any worker who goes up on to a vessel that has been in foreign port in the last 60 days without a disposable surgical facemask faces an immediate 14 day quarantine with the threat of further prosecution resulting in imprisonment or a \$50,000 fine hanging over their head.

The MUA has convened meetings with safety reps from all the major companies in the Port of Fremantle, as well as various manager and safety advisors, to meet with WA Police and the Health Department. This is so we could work through the latest Exposed On-Board Worker Directions and it's significant impact on WA stevedores and port workers. We have been distributing a heap of information on this issue to our stevedoring membership in particular especially since 13 members at Linx in Darwin got thrown into quarantine at the remote Howard Springs facility. This was after a supposed PPE breach wearing the same PPE they have been wearing since we stated dealing with COVID-19. We are currently working through a joint submission with the various employers to submit to the Chief Health Officer to try and address the worst aspects of these Directions.

## Offshore

All three key manning agents are now registered and live documents are in place. This is a great outcome for those members!

Go Offshore have been pushing back on many of our claims and after many meetings, we have applied for a Protected Action Ballot to take place. Our members are currently voting on whether or not they are prepared to go to action.

We are supporting a strong YES Vote!

**VOTE YES!**

Go Offshore were the first company to undermine our equal time roster by bringing in dead days whilst working onboard an oil and gas vessel. Any member engaged by a manning agent to work on a Go vessel should contact Jack McCabe 0410 390 081 or George Gakis 0412 310 686 before getting onboard. Go is attempting to use the manning agents to avoid the impact of industrial action and effectively work as strike breakers.

The Dof EBA negotiations have been positive to date and we continue to meet with the company in an effort to secure a new EBA that addresses our key claims.

## Inshore Sector

The Inshore EBA campaigns are about to kick off against Bhagwan Marine and Jetwave Marine. We have good density at both these workplaces and are seeking to lock in an agreement that secures both good wages and working conditions for our members at each of these sites.

The last campaign around the Inshore was about establishing some bones to the agreement. Now that's done, we want the increases!

## Teekay

The protected action ballot was a great success with members who work on the Protector voting 100% in favour of protected action. Teekay came back to the union and delegates on 18 June with an offer that delivers:

- \$10 000 uplift in wages
- protect income protection
- backpay
- over cycle
- delegate clause
- domestic violence clause
- parental clause
- increased travel and meals allowances
- union training
- 13.5 super
- 13 sickies + 5 compassionate day
- Qantas club
- day rooms
- job share
- status quo disputes

A key outcome from the Teekay dispute is ensuring that our membership at Serco on the 3 vessels the Besant, Mercator and Stoker will come across to Teekay now they have won that work off Serco.

While we review the settlement and are yet to see the drafting we have applied to Fair Work to have the time to take action extended by 30 days so we keep our options alive to take action should things not proceed where we expect them to.



## SERCO Defence Maritime

Following a conference at the Fair Work Commission, the company has agreed to apply the workforce's proposed definitions related to when Inshore and Offshore rates will apply going forward. The result was a good win and those members involved in the dispute (both Besant and Stoker crews) will be retrospectively paid accordingly. Great work from the delegates involved who were proactive throughout the dispute and meticulous in their record-keeping which really put us in the box-seat when it came to holding the company to account.

Of course the Teekay outcome achieved to keep the Serco members on these vessels through the transfer from Serco to Teekay has come through the willingness of Teekay members on the Protector to take tough militant action if required. It has shown what the strength of union solidarity can achieve – United we stand!

## Svitzer

The Svitzer National Towage EA bargaining meeting is scheduled to take place between 29 June to 1 July. If talks break down, the WA branch will be going back to protected action. Recent developments in the Port of Geelong, where Svitzer have decided to contract out their labour to a labour hire firm called Strategic Marine on an inferior labour hire agreement we have been unable to knock off in Fair Work at registration. Even though the voting process and those who voted on the agreement was dodgy. This issue alone necessitates the strongest response across the entire country given the future impact on all Svitzer towage operations.

## DP World

Despite the ink on the current EBA being pretty fresh, DPW appear to be more intent on making up policies that run counter to the terms of the EBA. DPW have done a spectacular job of completely eroding the goodwill of the workforce and are going to find quite shortly that members will be pushing back against their industrial stupidity. The Branch is still waiting for Doug Heath's Right of Entry permit to be approved by the Fair Work Commission but once this is done, there will be regular site visits so we can get on top of the recalcitrance of DPW management.

## Fremantle Port

Protected action has escalated to bring the Inner Harbour into the equation with a 24-hour stoppage taking place last Friday, 25 June and another notified for Thursday, 1 July. Members rallied at the entrance to the Fremantle Ports Administration building at 10am on Friday. Members voted unanimously to maintain the current protected action at KBT in addition to ramping up the frequency of 24-hour stoppages at the Inner Harbour. Further rallies are likely and all available members are urged to attend. The branch will circulate details via text and email as events unfold.

## LINX Fremantle

Linx appear to have lost another contract and the company is looking to invoke the "negative circumstances" provisions in the agreement - one of the results of IBB negotiations. The EA continues to be negotiated through IBB and expires on June 30th.



Fremantle Port Protest - 25.06.2021

## Patrick Terminal

Industrial action continues with a 24-hour stoppage this Wednesday and a workforce meeting at the branch 10:00 – 14:00. Bans on working off/avail days have been notified for most of July and bans on upgrades are notified for next weekend.

The company has called a labour review, complaining that the number of hours owed is excessive and indicating that they are seeking more flexibility. It's blatantly obvious that a lot of the problems related to the roster are being deliberately manufactured by local management. It is also pretty frustrating when a significant portion of the workforce's claims are intended to assist with controlling these owed hours, but management are refusing to entertain them.

## Programmed Industrial Maintenance

The ballot for protected action was successful with 100% participation in the vote and 100% support for all proposed bans and stoppages. The workforce will be engaging in a number of actions over the next few weeks and bargaining is expected to resume with the company.

## QUBE Fremantle

After 12 months of QUBE HR saying 'NO' to all 42 local bargaining claims, our QUBE members have voted for the Branch to start taking the necessary steps to filing a Protected Action Ballot Order application in FWC. Whilst Paul Brett is on leave for the next couple of weeks,

Will Tracey and Doug Heath will be meeting with members to explain and inform about the protected action process prior to us filing our PABO application. It is about time QUBE are held to account for their unreasonable stance in these negotiations and our members are not going to back down or back away from having our bargaining claims sorted.

## CBH Plant Operators

A 2-hour stop work full site meeting has been called for Thursday, July 8. Branch Secretary, Will Tracey will be in attendance as well as Jeff Cassar as the official with site coverage.

## CBH Workshop

EA negotiations are progressing with a third bargaining meeting to take place this Friday, 2 July. Claims have been put to the company and a significant amount of drafting has already been completed.

## Bunbury Southern Ports Authority

EA negotiations continue to progress. Union and employee reps met with management last week and reinforced the position that the port authority must continue to close the disparity between the terms and conditions applicable to employees working in Bunbury compared with those working at the ports of Albany and Esperance. The union is working with the employee representatives to draft a settlement offer that would ensure significant progress in that regard. The terms of the offer will be put to the membership for endorsement prior to being presented to the port.

Fremantle Port Protest - 25.06.2021

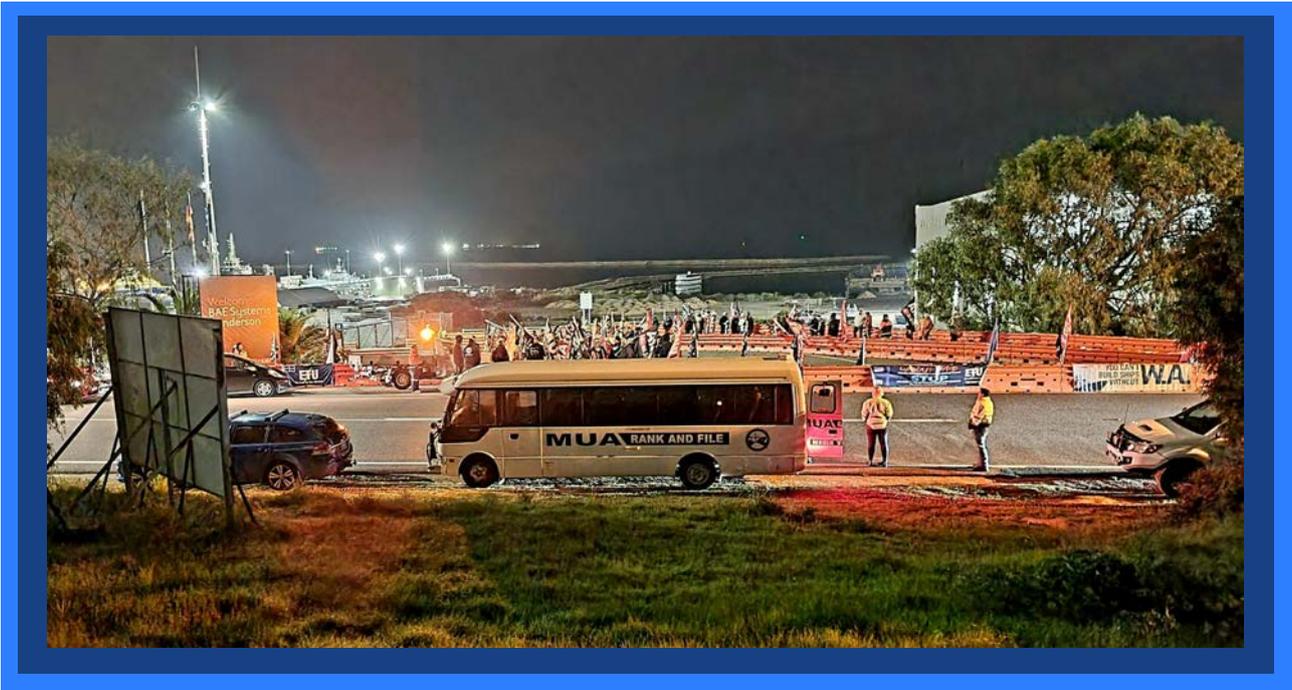


## Linx ABH

Linx has agreed to meet and make arrangements to commence bargaining for a replacement Enterprise Agreement. The union will keep members updated as meeting dates are confirmed. Members should take the opportunity to use the interim period to fine-tune their draft log of claims.

## BAE

BAE workers held their first stoppage of their EBA campaign in the second week of June in the form of a 24 hour picket. They commenced at 4.30 am in the morning and by 10.00 am BAE had decided to shut the site down completely. Since then we have held 2 further meetings on the EBA and appear to be apart on 2 key issues around job security and the pay increase. If it isn't sorted in the next week we will be returning to industrial action.



## NORTH WEST Inshore EA's

Both JetWave and Bhagwan Marine sent NERR's out recently to kick off negotiations for new North-West inshore agreements. We have spent the last 9+ months building a log of claims with our members with both companies. The removal of maintenance rates will be a key issue to bring these agreements up to the industry standard.

## Linx Dampier

Negotiations are set to kick off for Linx in Dampier in the next couple of weeks. The log of claims has been finalised and we are ready to go. There have been a few issues that have evolved over the past few years, with Toll being the owner of the Dampier supply base where they constantly attempt to have members breach the EA. We are keen to iron these issues out in negotiations to avoid any future pitfalls.

## QUBE Port Hedland

QUBE workers in Port Hedland today voted up the National QUBE Agreement.

## CSL Donnacona

Casual seafarers on board the CSL Donnacona are being short-changed on their transshipping allowance, with the company only paying half of what they are legally entitled to. We are currently in dispute over this and will be seeking to rectify the issue plus backpay.