



## Offshore Update – 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### Members

The Offshore Commission last met on Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October. The turn out from the membership was disappointing. All members need to be involved. It's your EBA, so get involved! The next meeting will take place on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

ALL Offshore Members must get involved. To be a part of your EBA, click on the link below at 11am WST (2pm EST) on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November:

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88907433091?pwd=QzExSGNFTko4YndQZEh3UmJOT0tvZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 0743 3091

Passcode: 887464

### OSM Porky Pies

YES, Yes, Yes, the words we want to hear from OSM but it's exactly that - they are only telling us what we want to hear but deliver nothing. "We will do it", say OSM!

Over the past 4–6 weeks, OSM management has told us that they would be getting the NERR out to the OSM membership. They have said this approximately 5 or 6 times. They have even advised us that they would be willing to commence bargaining with the MUA as well, but they won't provide us with any dates to kick things off....

The Porky Pies coming from the OSM office can only be as a result of the great advice being provided to Casey Munyard by their industrial Wizard Paul Schneider. His tactics through this have been that sneaky that not even the other operators are wanting to meet with them to discuss their tactics.

We always predicted that at least one of the operators would go it alone. Hence, we pushed on to have our members sign and return the "indication of support for an EBA" form that has been returned by the OSM membership. The result from those members was fantastic. A strong majority of OSM members returned their forms and because of this, we lodged with the FWC to force them to the table.

We were scheduled to be in the FWC with OSM on this matter Friday but have discontinued the matter, as last night OSM sent the NERR out to the OSM membership. Any OSM Member that received the notice should simply ignore the email and do nothing.



OSM have only been around for a few years in Australia, but they are quickly becoming the heavyweights of the Offshore Industry and that's not only because of the amount of lies that they tell us.

#### **Dof and GO Offshore Agree to Commence Bargaining**

Whilst OSM have been kicking us around, the most unlikely of operators Dof and GO Offshore, have agreed to kick things off at their end. Delegates will be asked to get involved at each of these companies.

Last EBA, both operators were in tight with the AMMA strategy and sought to destroy the integrity of our long standing EBA's. As a result, both agreements were negotiated in front of the FWC and we ended up with different agreements than the broader industry. We must bring these operators in line with the industry. We are well prepared for all the AMMA tactics used in the last EBA and expect to deal with these operators in a different manner to last time.

#### **Upcoming Annual General Meetings**

The **Broome AGM** – will be held on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm. Should any vessels be in Port, please contact George Gakis to assist with getting you to and from the venue.

**Fremantle AGM – Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November at 9am – East Freo Footy Club**



All Available Members should attend!

## **MAERSK Update**

You think that your Employer is bad? Try working for an anti-union outfit like Maersk Supply Service. It's NOT alright at Maersk!

You may recall that after a 5-year EBA campaign, we landed a deal with Maersk and secured minimum manning for their AHTS vessels being 5 x IRs and a cook - Only for them to renege after the agreement was registered. We disputed and won this case against them.

Following that dispute, our members raised a dispute about the size and configuration etc of their new M Class vessels. The crew wanted a steward on board. Without going through that story again, the Union has been arguing for 18+ months and are now waiting on the Federal Court to hand down its decision.

Back to them being a shitty employer... Once again, we are in a redundancy situation at Maersk Supply Service. They continue to claim that they are not in a position to allow for job share (even though it's in our agreement) and, get this... they can't afford to put people on leave without pay? Does that make sense to you?

I'm not entirely sure if they understand what they are saying exactly. They stated that "they can't afford to have people on leave WITHOUT pay". This doesn't cost them a dime! Without doubt, this may end up in another shit fight should we not reach an agreed position.

Now for the really bad stuff... Maersk appear to be attacking the MUA on all fronts.

Svitzer (whom are owned by Maersk), have terminated their contract with OSM on Koolan island. Union rates of pay and conditions gone overnight. Their tugs at Koolan are now being crewed by non-union outfit Broome Marine and Tug, the same people who work the Tugs in Broome Port.

In the National Towage EBA, the MUA has had to file for a Good Faith Bargaining Order with the Fair Work Commission against Svitzer, as the company have refused to table their proposed clauses. After approximately a year of negotiations, they have dropped 30 new claims on us, many of which seek to strip away basic conditions that we have had for many years.

Then there is Maersk Supply Service and what they are up to. This mob have recently sacked one of our members for raising a bullying and harassment claim against one of their officers. The company have sought to find new allegations raised through the bullying investigation, that they declared substantiated although there was no hard evidence supporting the claims. What is clear, is that Maersk have backed in its officers on the basis of rank and their word means more than ours. It's utter garbage and yet another attack on the MUA membership. We won't be copping this and will be ensuring that we challenge MSS in every way possible to ensure we get justice for this individual. Shame on Maersk!

The cherry on top – Maersk are now claiming that the Offshore EBA does NOT apply on run jobs in and out of Australia. If you were at the last Stoppy or a part of the Offshore Commission, you should recall the report on the scope of the EBA. More and more operators are trying to claim that the Agreement does not apply unless the vessel is on contract. This doesn't mean that they are correct, it just means we are needing more legal challenges against the company and as reported, it means we need to ensure that we get the wording right in this EBA to make it crystal clear that EBA applies when members are on board a vessel.

The Australian offshore industry has always put the Australian crews on at the last foreign port before a vessel comes onto our coast, and we always crew them to the first foreign port when it leaves our coast after a contract or a vessel has finished. MSS are seeking to put Aussies on International Rates or engage Overseas Labour to do the run instead of us!

The company are being spoken to through the ITF (internationally) and we are hopeful that we can secure and outcome through these connections. If not, we have a plan B and plan C for this matter. We may call on the membership to get on board for this.

### **Stop Work Meeting – WA Branch**

Members, the **Fremantle Branch October Stop Work Meeting has been moved forward to next Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020** at 9am in the union rooms.

### **General**

Please share this email with your email contacts. If people want to receive this directly from me, please send me an email asking to be placed onto a mailing list at [George.gakis@mua.org.au](mailto:George.gakis@mua.org.au).

Vessels sending in crew lists should email the lists to their Organiser or Officials responsible for that vessel/company. These membership checks should be sent in each swing.

If anyone is doing it tough, please don't wait, get in touch with Hunterlink. They can be contacted by phone on either of these numbers 24/7:

[+61 \(02\) 4929 6625](tel:+61249296625)

[24/7 Call: 1800 554 654](tel:1800554654)



In Unity

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*"Australian Democracy was built on Civil Disobedience"*

### **Maritime Union of Australia | WA BRANCH**

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