



Offshore Update – 18th November 2020

Comrades

The below provides updates on YOUR EBA, what Swine Pacific Offshore is up to, the Authority to Act forms, Call for Catering Committee and Offshore EBA members meeting, Border Update and the Fremantle Branch AGM.

Fremantle Branch AGM

The MUA will be holding its **AGM 9am this Tuesday, 24 November at the East Fremantle Football Club**. All available members should be in attendance. More details are found in the flyer attached.

Border Update

With South Australia now reaching 21 confirmed COVID cases, with an expected 14 more – SA has been declared a hot spot by Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

- WA - SA has been added to the restricted areas which also include VIC and NSW. All SA travellers must quarantine upon entry into the state.
- NT - SA has been declared a hotspot with travellers required to quarantine. The Commercial Maritime Crew Direction 51 continues to apply.
- Qld - Adelaide is declared a hotspot. Marine crew protocols will continue to apply.
- Tas - SA arrivals must isolate upon entry into the state.

It also appears that Victoria may soon be added to the list of states that are going to be closing their borders to SA persons.

EBA Meetings

We have been making some progress with some of the operators in the industry. Whilst we are still apart on some key issues, we are working towards securing an agreement that delivers positive outcomes in negative circumstances.

At our first bargaining meeting with Go Offshore on 5 November, Go Offshore provided us with 3 options for its business to be able to operate on the Inpex project as a result of Inpex asking for further reductions and cost-cutting measures.

Option 1 was to reach an agreement that covers off all departments with no increases whatsoever;
Option 2 was that Go Offshore intends to introduce Partnerships; and
Option 3 was that Go Offshore may seek to engage a labour hire firm to fill the positions on board the Go Koi.

1. We won't be agreeing to a single agreement. If we do, this will become the beginning of the end for our workplace conditions.

2. We have raised the matter of partnerships as a dispute with Go Offshore and will be running this through the EDSDPA process. What's important to know here is that they cannot force partnership onto us, unless our members agree to them. Our advice is – do not agree with them!
3. Whilst their 3rd option is highly unlikely, it's not impossible for a labour-hire firm to subcontract their work to another labour-hire firm. It would probably be the first time this has happened in the Offshore Oil and Gas sector, but I wouldn't put anything past the Go Offshore Business model. It's probably due to decisions like this that they went into administration a few years ago.

What this means is that Go Offshore is seeking to set a new industry standard. We cannot allow for a single agreement to get voted up. The outcome of this will cripple our wages and conditions – maybe not now, but they will eventually strip away what we have.

We suspect that the company will be sending out an EBA around Christmas for all departments to vote on. We have no option but to stick together and when it does come out, all Go Offshore members Vote, and Vote No to the single non-union Agreement. Members across the industry will need to play their part and contact the Officers and Engineers on the Go Koi, ensuring that they also vote No to a single Agreement.

We are meeting with OSM again later this week. Whilst our last discussions with them were about as exciting as a sour lemon, we are hoping that this time around they may come back with a more open mind. We will be calling for an OSM members phone hook-up next week – time and date to be confirmed.

Swire Flu

The Swire Flu is back and more vigorous than ever! This Anti-Union Disease has been stopped by the Union before the virus spread and infected more Offshore employers.

Swire Pacific Offshore sacked 2 of our members for standing up for Australian Seafarers. Swine Offshore engaged non-other than the most dysfunctional employer's rep – AMMA, who then placed their long-term Anti-Union crusader Peter Cook to spearhead their campaign.

He tried, but our young *vigorous* lawyer rattled the experienced AMMA rep!

As a matter of fact, Peter asked our lawyer to apologise to him because he was made to feel embarrassed in front of the Commissioner.

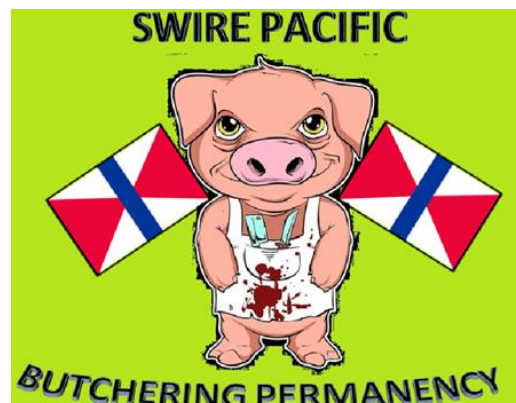
We have run up both unfair dismissal cases and settled for each of our members. Both cases resulted in a positive outcome for those members and the broader membership.

Just when we thought we had managed to contain the Swire Flu, the second wave hit. Swine Pacific Offshore is once again on the attack and are seeking to chop-up some of our long-standing permanents. Although there are clear provisions within the EBA, Swine Offshore is choosing to ignore the provisions that deal with Job Share.

Although our members have voted to protect permanent jobs and go to a Job Share scenario, Swire has announced that they intend on butchering their permanents and are intending on forcing people out the door.

This matter has been raised as a dispute and lodged with the Fair Work Commission. We are on our way to the Commission tonight!!

Every time the Swire Flu breaks out of its HR office in Fremantle to infest our industry, the MUA will be ready.



Authority to Act Forms

Before our EBA meeting with Go Offshore last week, we issued the Authority to Act Paperwork. They have advised that the administrators now hold all information on members from pre-administration. As such, we may need to seek our claims through Korda Mentha.

Go Offshore have confirmed that anyone who has previously worked for Go post-administration, will have their details sent to me by the end of this week.

As per usual, Swine Pacific Offshore are still taking their sweet-arse time. We will now be looking at prosecuting them for not providing us with those member's details within in practicable timeframe as per the Act.

Offshore Members Meeting

At the last meeting, there was a motion moved to establish a catering committee. Can all catering nominations please be sent through to me by Friday, 4th December. Depending on numbers, we may not move to an election and accept all nominations.

The next member's video conference call will be held on Wednesday 23 December at 10am WST (1pm EST) Details will follow at a later date.

In Unity

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