



MUA WA Branch Offshore Update

Offshore Update – 22nd April 2021

Offshore Members,

This update covers off the Offshore EBA Campaign, upcoming works, offshore wind, AMSA revalidations and more.

Offshore EBA Campaign

The next Offshore members meeting takes place on **Thursday - 29th April at 9am (WST)**, (11am EST). To participate in this forum, either pop into the WA Branch or dial in by clicking on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86086040002?pwd=MDRNBm15dDNTc1FYRGpZalMrbi95Zz09>

Meeting ID: **860 8604 0002**

Passcode: **719 617**

All Offshore members should get involved in this campaign, regardless of whether they are working or not.

Manning Agent EBA Update

The AOS EBA (attached) was certified by the FWC late last week. This document is now legally in place and increases, etc should be applied and backdated immediately. Congratulations to the AOS membership on securing their new EBA.

OSM will be commencing their access period next Tuesday - 27th April, with their EBA going to vote on Wednesday - 5th May. We will be supporting this EBA and encouraging a “YES” vote to take place. Details for the Atlas EBA will be advised in coming days.

After finalising the AOS EBA, we met to finalise the Atlas and OMS agreements. Both companies floated and commenced discussions around a proposal for a 4-year EBA. This new proposal included an uplift in the casual loading to 25%, with further increases in severance and wages of another 8%. However, they also sought to introduce fixed term contracts into the industry, as well as removing the reference to permanency benchmark. We had an obligation to explore this in the first instance with the OSM delegates and membership, to see whether there was any appetite to proceed and then follow that through with the broader offshore membership if it was felt through this proposal that the process had merit. Unfortunately, while different parts of the offer were worth exploring, the introduction of a fixed term provision and the removal of the permanency benchmark was not palatable and was rejected by the delegates and membership.

We have also met with Entier, who are reviewing the proposed document. They appear to be on board and we should be hearing from them shortly. Similarly, we will be meeting with ESS in the coming days to progress our EBA discussions and don't suspect there will be any issues. We hope to have both catering companies locked into the new EBA arrangements in coming months.

Vessel Operators EBA Update

The Dof EBA negotiations are at a standstill, as Dof management are simply refusing to agree to any of our key claims. They appear to be dancing around our smaller claims in a hope that we would be happy and move onto the next operator. Dof is a key operator in our industry and we are pressing on for the agreement our members have demanded and will campaign for.

Our Dof membership are committed to a decent outcome in their next EBA.

The Go Offshore rush to get the agreement done appears to be gone, as management are enjoying their extended holidays whilst our members have been slugging it out keeping the company afloat. The company has been solely focused on meeting the needs of Santos and Inpex, all whilst earning a few extra bucks accompanying the MPV Everest.

Go Offshore have been accommodating their clients by trying to convince our members to work a 10-week swing cycle. Obviously, our GO Offshore membership are better than that and have told management to GFT. A credit to the MUA membership.

Offshore Wind

More and more pressure is growing on the Federal government to begin granting approvals to make way for different sources of renewable energy, as more and more projects and possibilities arise. The offshore wind market is really beginning to gain some momentum in this part of the world, as there are now 4 projects being spoken of across the country. Plans are beginning to develop to construct offshore wind farms in Victoria, Newcastle and WA, with the Star of South project set to commence in 2 years.

The latest plan is a \$1 billion, 300MW offshore wind farm in Western Australian, south of Perth. Reports suggest that they intend to be generating power by 2026. There is a heap of potential for these types of projects in WA, which could expedite plans for renewable energy exports with our neighbours. The benefits of renewable energy projects are a clear path forward for sustainable growth and these projects will play an important role into transitioning across to jobs in the new renewable economy of our seafaring membership.

COVID-19

The pandemic is still upon us, borders are continually opening and closing with as little as a few hours notice. Members are reminded **not** to be complacent.

With the delay in the vaccination roll out, it's suspected normality won't be upon us (in Australia at least) until the back end of the year at best.

Sick Leave vs Workers Comp

Members that are at work and are injured or ill as a result of being at work, should engage Slater and Gordon for proper workers comp advice. Simply contacting the WA Branch for a referral. If your injury has been caused by or is related to work, you should consider lodging a claim.

We have been informed that some of our members (at various employers) are being told that they need to apply for sick leave, instead of making a worker's comp claim. There is a difference and members should always take the workers comp route.

Once a claim is lodged and on record, should the illness or injury reoccur at any point in the future, then you will be in a position to lodge a re-occurrence. If you do not make a claim, you may face difficulties in proving that your injury occurred at work.

The point being is, log your claim and get in touch with Slater and Gordon if you are ill or injured at work.

AMSA Revalidations

The AMSA extensions are coming to an end, with a final date being 30/06/2021. This means that many of our seafaring membership certification will cease to be valid and must be renewed. Once again, if members tickets are due to expire or are expired, then book in and get revalidated asap.

There will also be a mass amount of seafarers requiring renewal in December of this year, given that the old STCW booklets were swapped out for the 5-year validity CoST cards 5 years ago in 2016.

Once again, we strongly recommend that all members begin forward planning and get locked in to do their revalidation courses sooner rather than later.

Svitzer Members Lock in Protected Action

South Australian Svitzer members will be taking protected action this coming Friday. The action will be for a 24-hour period.

WA Svitzer members working in the Ports of Kwinana and Fremantle are also headed to protected action next week.

When the time comes, show your support and back in the membership at Svitzer!

In Unity

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“Australian Democracy was built on Civil Disobedience”

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