



## Offshore Update 23/9/2020

### Offshore Members

This update works through some key issues in your industry. **Offshore Wind - Members Action Required, Offshore EBA Update, AMSA Ticket Extensions, Industry Facing Redundancies and Maersk Steward Update.**

### Offshore EBA Update

We can report that both Atlas and AOS have now sent out their Notice of Representational Rights (NERR) forms to their employees. This now leaves only OSM that are stalling as they did for 4+ years with the Officers agreements. Therefore, the MUA are getting on the front foot and asking the OSM membership to fill out the attached no later than the 28 September.

Immediately following the 28<sup>th</sup> we will be commencing legal proceedings to force OSM to bargain should they not have sent out the NERR by then.

On a lighter note, it appears that they (the manning agents) are reconsidering our 16-claim offer. We will be able to report in more detail on their proposal at our next Offshore Commission Meeting on **Friday 2 October at 9am WA Time (11am EST).**

All members are encouraged to participate in this Zoom meeting regardless if you're on leave or on board a vessel. If you're in WA, then head down to the Union Rooms in Fremantle otherwise contact your branches.

To register in advance for this meeting click on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcuiupj4rGNSueDHRUpMsOC9eSfVypVxl>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. All members must register to participate.

### **Kyle McGinn Standing up for Offshore Workers**

The following video of **Kyle McGinn, MLC for the Mining and Pastoral Region**, addresses these issues in a clear and direct manner (***click on below link***):

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=n19rvWeSxN8>

I encourage everyone to listen to Kyle McGinn's 10 minute speech he made in the WA Parliament. Kyle has had a decent crack at **INPEX, Woodside** and **Chevron** for their decisions to change rosters (Woodside) and to sack workers and the impact this has had on the mental health of workers and their families. If only more politicians were like Kyle, the working class would be better off.

### **Stop Blocking Offshore Wind – climate jobs now!**

With unemployment at record levels, thousands of jobs and billions in investment are waiting on the government's offshore renewables legislation. We need these projects to create jobs, reduce energy emissions, and help address the climate crisis.

Offshore wind could play a big role in decarbonising the electricity system in Australia. Three huge offshore wind projects are in the works in Australia: [Star of the South](#) off Gippsland, Victoria, Newcastle Offshore Wind off NSW, and the Mid-West Wind and Solar Project (<https://www.pilotenergy.com.au/sites/pilotenergy.com.au/files/asx-announcements/6994584.pdf>) south of Geraldton in WA. These projects connect the immense renewable energy resources off our coasts with the existing transmission lines, population and industry built near the coast.

All members should sign this petition <https://www.megaphone.org.au/p/stopblockingoffshorewind> and please share it on social media and other forums.

**Day of Action:** On Friday September 25, the MUA is participating in a global day of action with the Students Strike 4 Climate, calling on governments to invest in renewable energy and create climate jobs. Because of Covid restrictions each state has a different action.

Perth Action is on at 11:00 AM at 97 William Street, Perth WA. For more information on other actions across the state or country, visit this link <https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/buildourfuture>



**All Members, including crew on board of vessels take a photo, with the attached 'Stop blocking offshore wind' sign. Post it on social media, and text or WhatsApp the photo to Mich-Elle Myers on 0401 202 667.**

The Government was supposed to introduce an Offshore Clean Energy Infrastructure Bill in mid-2020 but that time has passed and there is still no draft Bill. Credible offshore wind projects have been waiting more than five years for this legislation. The bill should provide that Work Health and Safety for offshore wind should be part of the national harmonised system and recognise that the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is not the appropriate body to regulate offshore renewable energy.

Using our offshore renewable resources can provide thousands of transition jobs for offshore oil and gas workers and other energy workers. Offshore wind projects can be located near existing coal fired power stations. The International Energy Agency says that the strength and consistency of offshore wind make it potentially comparable with gas and coal fired power ([IEA Offshore Wind Outlook 2019](#)).

The government is offering much less support to ocean renewable energy than it has offered to gas-fired power, fracking, coal seam gas and pipelines. If Commonwealth-owned Snowy Hydro is building new energy generation, it should be offshore wind in Commonwealth waters.

### **Offshore Industry faces redundancies**

Our members have worked tirelessly through some of the pressing COVID-19 issues we have faced as a Union. The Membership have had to endure 2 weeks at a time in isolation, extended swings and in some cases unpaid time away from home.

At the end of this, the thanks we get is a redundancy payment – if you were lucky enough to be a permanent.

Right now - Maersk, Swire, Atlas and Toll are headed into a redundancy situation. We are in discussions with all these members and with each of the Employers. All options will be exhausted, and we will be doing whatever we can to prevent any forced redundancies from occurring.

### **AMSA Ticket Extensions**

As you are aware the MUA have been lobbying AMSA to further extend the certificates due the isolation restrictions and uncertainty around the Coronavirus. We are pleased to be able to report that AMSA have agreed to extend the duration of all National Law certificates of competency.

If you have a certificate of competency (not suspended or revoked) that was due to expire between 26 March 2020 and 31 January 2021, your COC will be extended until the earlier of 31 July 2021 or 12 months from the date your certificate expired. You do not need to apply for this exemption, it will happen automatically. You will still receive a renewal notice, but you are able to defer this until the new expiry date.

For more information on this, members should visit the AMSA website

<https://www.amsa.gov.au/about/regulations-and-standards/exemption-42-marine-safety-extension-time-certificates-competency>

### **Maersk Steward Update**

The long-awaited Maersk Steward dispute comes to a head this week as the Union and our lawyers face off with Maersk and their representatives in the Federal Court. Both Thursday and Friday (all day) we will be vigorously defending the outcome of the Fair Work Commission to place a Steward on board of the M Class Maersk vessels.

Our legal team (including highly experienced Senior Council) will be arguing why the decision of the Deputy President and the Full Bench should be upheld. We feel positive going into the court and hope that the decision falls in favour of the MUA.

We are expecting to have a final decision made by the Federal Court Judge in a few weeks following the hearing.

### **In Unity**

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***“Australian Democracy was built on Civil Disobedience”***

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