



## **Offshore Update – 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

ATT Offshore Members,

Its time for the members to have their say, as this report provides the next steps in the Offshore EBA campaign.

### **Stop Work Meetings**

Given the recent Coronavirus outbreak in Victoria and new restrictions in place, the Vic Branch will not be holding their monthly meeting, however, the Monthly Stoppies around the rest of the country are back on!

On the last Tuesday of every month, the Union restart holding our monthly meetings. All available members are to attend and should arrive by no later than 9am to find out what's happening in YOUR industry.

### **Offshore EBA Direction – Dates Set for Rank and File Engagement**

The National Executive has endorsed further meetings of the Offshore Membership to begin taking place. This will occur at each Branch via video conferencing.

This is the first time that the Union has actively sought to engage members via electronic video conferencing, in a forum attracting over 100 participants, to obtain the direction of the membership. We have carefully thought through what structures are required for this to work. If successful, there is potential that further Industry Commissions, bargaining meetings and possibly other national meetings could be run this way in the future.

### **Detail of the Commission**

As you know, the Offshore EBA campaign has been set back several weeks as a result of the current state of the industry, along with the global pandemic. Considering this, we need to seek direction from the key officials, delegates and membership before proceeding on our EBA campaign.

To progress, we must determine what the path forward looks like. Especially given the significantly changed set of circumstances since the last offshore commission took place in December last year.

The following plan outlines two meetings to reach our members across the country. The meetings will be five weeks apart, with the view of ensuring delegates can participate in the Conference calls in the Branch if possible.

## 1. Details

### WHEN:

- Friday 10 July – 9 am (WST)/11 am (EST)
- Friday 14 August - 9 am (WST)/11 am (EST)

### HOW:

- Dial-in/Video details to be sent out to the Branches closer to the date.
- Each Branch will assist in facilitating members to access these facilities at their branches.

## 2. Numbers of Attendees

### WHO:

- Each Branch will have up to **8 members** to participate in the hook-up;
- Elected CC Delegates from each of the employers will be in addition to the 8; and
- Participating Officials and Organisers will also be in addition to the 8.

Following the Commission, we will report back to the broader industry on what direction the Offshore Commission has determined. There will be updates provided at each of the Stop Work Meetings held around the country on **Tuesday, 25 August**. In addition to this, there will also be offshore vessel visits and video hookups for those who we can't get to!

### Casual Leave Ruling – Federal Government Intervention

As expected, WorkPac has announced that they will be escalating the decision of “casual workers being able to obtain leave” to the high court. The Federal government has also confirmed that they too would be intervening in these proceedings.

What this means for us, is that we will need to wait and see the outcome of this landmark decision before proceeding at our end.

### Dispute Resolution

We have been faced with some issues at the FairWork Commission, due to our members NOT following the disputes procedure correctly. The dispute resolution process outlined in most of our agreements are very much the same.

- 1) Raise it with the Master (if you raise it verbally, make sure you also follow up in an email). If not resolved, then;
- 2) Raise it with the Employer rep in an email and cc in the Master and the appropriate Union Organiser/ Official. If not resolved;
- 3) Refer to Union Organiser/Official responsible to take the matter up further on your behalf.

When you're sending emails, please put your names on the email and send it on behalf of the MUA crew on board your vessel.

### Interstate Lock Downs

Western Australia has postponed its plan to open its border in August, given the recent Victorian COVID break out. It may be many months before the WA government seek to open-up travel to anyone not classified as an essential worker.

Having said that, this week there have been reports of some operators being able to obtain exemptions for “the top 4” being Masters, Ch Officers, Ch Engineers and 1<sup>st</sup> Officers. We are looking into this and hope to be able to report back to our membership in the next week or so regarding this matter.

As for QLD and SA, reports are suggesting that they are intending on opening their borders up in July but excluding Victorians.

### MUA Statement regarding Justice Dyson Heydon

<https://www.mua.org.au/news/mua-statement-regarding-justice-dyson-heydon>

In unity,

**George Gakis || M: 0412 310 686**

**P: 08 9335 0500 || E: [george.gakis@mua.org.au](mailto:george.gakis@mua.org.au)**

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

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

Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union  
2-4 Kwong Alley, North Fremantle WA 6159

