



26 NOVEMBER 2021

OFFSHORE UPDATE

M U A W A B R A N C H

Comrades,

There is plenty going on and plenty more to report to you all. As always please take the time to read through this important update.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Each MUA Branch has its AGM coming up over the course of the next few days.

The WA Branch will be holding the 2021 AGM at the East Fremantle Football Club between 09:00 and 12:00 on Tuesday 30th November.

The AGM is a key event for our Union, as it brings together members across each of our key industry sectors. The AGM will provide members with an opportunity to be briefed on the broader issues facing our Union at both the National and State level.

The AGM is also a process of transparency for our Union regarding not only the financial management of our union but the industrial representation of members.

If members are not at work and in WA, then we urge all members to attend our AGM. A good attendance at key union events such as the AGM sends a clear message to employers that we have a unified membership and are prepared to push back against employers.

Hope to see you there!

PLENTY OF WORK TO COME

As reported in the last Offshore Update, there is a substantial number of vessels headed to the Aussie coast for work in the not-so-distant future.

The recent confirmation of the Scarborough project going ahead will likely see another 6 Dredges on the coast in the not-too-distant future - plus the Oil and Gas Vessels that will be required on-site shortly thereafter.

Earlier this week, the Andrews Government has further cemented Victoria's status as the "clean energy capital of Australia".

They are doing this by providing a funding boost of \$40 million for offshore wind projects to drive jobs and bring forward the next wave of renewable energy opportunities. That is fantastic news for our industry!

Star of the South, Macquarie Group, and Flotation Energy – has the potential to create up to 5,600 jobs and brings more than \$18 billion in new investment to Victoria.

The funding will help each of those projects conduct further studies to determine the exact location of each project. Whilst there still needs to be community consultation, regulatory approvals, and environmental assessments, this is a positive step in the right direction for the future of our industry.



OFFSHORE UPDATE

Induction Dispute - with AOS

I can report that AOS has conceded that inductions be that online or other will attract payment of a dead day.

To be clear where an Employee has completed any online or project induction to work on a project at the request of the Company, that Employee is to receive a payment of a dead day for that induction regardless of whether the induction took 1 hour or 12 hours.

If the Employee is subsequently required or requested to complete a further or subsequent induction, after the initial one was issued, the Company will pay an additional Dead Day for that induction.

Members that are asked to undergo online inductions should take a recording of themselves in case of a dispute arising around the length of time the induction took. That being if the company gives you inductions that are meant to take 8 hours but end up taking 16 hours – we say you are entitled to x2 dead days.

PCR Testing Dispute - with AOS

We ran a case against AOS for payments to be made to members undergoing PCR testing in their leave periods or personal time.

Unfortunately, there is no provision within the Agreement that specifically deals with this. The outcome of this dispute was not favorable.

There is however another way that we can force the Employer/s to pay for this. That being that each vessel, should hold a meeting of the members, determine that the entire crew refuses to undergo testing the next time they join the vessel unless they and the Union has received written confirmation that they will be paid.

Skandi Singapore & Skandi Hercules DSPs - with AOS

We were successful in obtaining shorthand pay for the Gangway watch position for each of the Skandi Vessels. Members on board at the time should receive payment in the coming days.

The Skandi Hercules 117% claim was not successful given that the vessel was not a specifically built accommodation Vessel.

Training Dispute - with OSM

This matter has been ongoing now for some time. The hold has been because of the lawyers being hammered with other cases that require to be lodged within limited periods of time.

A dispute of payments of training has up to 6 years before we are required to lodge the matter.

In any event, this matter has been lodged into the FWC and we are awaiting on a date to be before Deputy President Binet.

Payment of Dead Days whilst in Quarantine – with OSM

When COVID first began, we were reluctant to run a dispute on this matter in case the outcome of the DSP fell with the Employers. The time has come for us to lodge this with the FWC, and should there be a positive outcome, we can press on with other outstanding payments.

To be clear, we don't believe payments are applicable when you're at your home port. We do believe you are entitled to payment if you are not at your home port. Members not paid should discuss this with their Official and look to raise as a dispute so we can pursue that Employer.

Potable Water DSP – with MMA

This DSP is based around whether MMA is complying with the ISO standard and whether they are then complying with the potable water requirements under the EBA.

We are back in the FWC once again with the company next week. Given the complexities of this DSP, we suspect that it may go to a hearing.

OFFSHORE UPDATE CONTINUED...

PPE Allowance – with MMA

MMA has admitted guilt for making incorrect PPE payments to its permanent Employees. They have committed that any irregularities will be addressed in the coming weeks. A positive outcome for many of our MMA permanents.

The Casual Employee on the other hand is a different story.

Our position is that Casual Employees should be paid the full amount across a 12-month period. That being if Casuals are engaged for a regular roster of 5 on, 5 off for 12 months, they get the full amount. Likewise, if they are engaged for 4 days or a full swing, they should still receive the full amount.

The casual payment we are still in dispute over, but we are seeking that these members are paid what they are entitled to.

Long Service Leave Application – with MMA

By now members would be aware that we had a significant win against MMA on the application of the state LSL award.

Since then, other members from other Employers have raised questions as to whether this applies to them. In short, we say that if you have worked consistently with your Employer for approx. 7 years as a casual or permanent, you are entitled to LSL.

Outcomes of these disputes should apply to the rest of the industry (subject to EBA provisions). If members are not being paid as such then talk to your official and raise as a dispute with the Master or the Employer if ashore.



UPCOMING OFFSHORE MEMBERS HOOK-UP

There is a truckload of work on the horizon.

On the 10th of December, we are calling on ALL MEMBERS to participate in our next Offshore Members Meeting either in person at the WA Branch or via the video conference call.

The meeting starts at 1pm WST (4pm EST), and we will be covering off the upcoming EBA campaign, reporting on the Go Offshore Appeal, DOF protected action, how to deal with the Oil and Gas labour shortage, and more.

To participate in the conference call please use this link;

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255332230?pwd=SEo3TXRJdGZGR2w3THpleWh0Mnpndz09>

Meeting ID: 852 5533 2230 Passcode: 866104

Once again, the log of claims can be found at this link:

<https://www.mua.org.au/sites/mua.org.au/files/WA%20Branch/OFFSHORE%20LOC%202022.pdf>

OHS REPRESENTATIVES

If there are elected HSRs for Offshore vessels, please let me know who you are as soon as you can.



In Unity
George Gakis
Assistant Secretary
M: 0412 310 686 | P: 08 9335 0500
E: george.gakis@mua.org.au
Maritime Union of Australia | WA BRANCH

