



## **Offshore Update - 30/04/2020**

Comrades,

It's quite a lengthy update, but important that you work your way through this as there are some significant updates on various issues in our industry. Please share this update with your email contacts.

### **MUA Members take Action to deliver Correct Payment!**

Late last week, one of the Operators stole from our members in the form of their accrued leave days. This company sought to pay for the isolation periods that our East coast members went through with their accrued leave-taking many already in the red, further into the red. As a result of the theft that took place, our affected members stuck fat and delivered. All members that isolate with this company will be paid as dead days.

**The outcome was only achieved as a result of ACTION.** What we can say is that we have those commitments we sought from the Employer and those members should be commended.

Let's be clear about this – the best wins we have are driven by our membership standing up and telling their Employers NO. By standing up for themselves and ensuring that these bosses pay correctly. Collective action delivers outcomes!

### **Offshore EBA Update**

The claims were closed off a few weeks ago and we can report that we received over 102 emails. Of the 102 emails received, about 32 were from vessel emails, and there was a total of 402 claims received.

After condensing the claims (double ups etc) the total claims we are left with is 350.

The key areas covered in no particular order are;

- Norwegian Roster or 4 weeks on 4 weeks Off
- Define length of workday, hours and breaks
- Protect or an equivalent redundancy fund introduced offshore.
- With high casualization and high turnover of short-term projects this would greatly benefit casual seafarers. Longest serving casuals to be given preference for upcoming permanent jobs
- All training courses, inductions (including online) to be paid for by the Employer.
- Upgrade bandwidth of internet
- Amenities need to be bought in line with modern technology to include Satellite TV and the internet with general browsing speeds as a minimum.
- Food budget to be evaluated annually, not every 4 years
- Increase per man per day for catering budget
- Increase all Hard-Lay allowances to encourage issues to be resolved promptly, i.e. AC.

- Mandatory clause to be added to include vessel inspections
- General Provisions tidy up

Given the current state of the industry, COVID-19, and the downward volatility on the oil price, we may need to review some of the outcomes from the Offshore Commission particularly around the industrial strategy for this EBA campaign.

We intended to commence bargaining this month with the manning agents given that their EBAs were due to expire in October this year. The other operators were due to shortly follow. Given the above and the general volatility in the industry, we need to give further consideration to our campaign approach as we analyse further what the industry is doing.

There will be much more to come on this EBA campaign, and the membership will be updated as we progress through this together.

### **Jobkeeper Rorts**

The ATO claims [it will be keeping an eye on corrupt bosses that are trying to rort](#) the JobKeeper payments. Members are encouraged to report any suspicious behaviour by any Employer (be that in our industry or other) on 1800 060 062.

In the Offshore, all Employers that have entered into the jobkeeper scheme have provided us with commitments around their intentions. All Employers other than MMA Offshore.

Subject to receiving satisfactory responses to our questions from other operators, we were able to endorse our members signing and returning the forms.

What we need to understand is that the Jobkeeper forms are being used for keeping people employed. All we needed was a Yes or No from MMA confirming whether they intended to issue other Jobkeeper directions beyond just paying the Jobkeeper wage subsidy to eligible employees who don't have any work. However, MMA refused to provide us with those commitments nor further comments which suggests that they are up to no good and possibly trying something untoward.

Having said this, we have endorsed the MMA Casuals to proceed with the paperwork. We did this as we don't want the MMA Casuals to miss out on a wage of some description should they be eligible to obtain one.

All MMA Permanents on the other hand, should continue to maintain the position of not signing onto this form unless they hear back from us.

All other members that are approached by their employer should get in touch with their Union Official if they are seeking you to sign up as well.

### **Maersk Steward Dispute**

This week, the senior council lodged the final submissions for the Maersk Steward dispute. Whilst this dispute has been ongoing now for close to 3 years, we are hopeful that the end is near. What has become apparent is that Maersk is seeking to draw this process right out to avoid setting the new industry standard.

We hope that the Federal Court of Australia throws Maersk's application out in tomorrow's hearing given that the parties had previously agreed to arbitrate disputes through the FWC and then again through a Full bench of the FWC.

If the decision does not fall in favour of the worker, then we will proceed within defending the matter in the Federal Court.

This may be a lengthy process, but they won't be backing away from the decision made by the Fair Work Commission.

Our members have been through 3 years of litigation to keep the jobs of offshore caterers on these types of vessels.

As we know more about this, we will report back to the membership.

### **Federal Government looks to implement Ensuring Integrity Bill**

Jacqui Lambie has opened up on the federal government stating that their focus should be on providing Medicare rebates and cracking down on multinationals dodging taxes before focusing on their attention on the **Ensuring Integrity Bill**.

She said that the government could immediately go back to the multinationals and make sure they were taxed appropriately.

This would be a good start which would help rebuild the Australian economy.

This law is created to attack all unions but namely ours, being the CFMMEU.

### **Inpex gets nod of approval from NOPSEMA**

NOPSEMA has recently approved Inpex's application to install Umbilicals, Risers and Flowlines as part of the next stage of the Ichthys Project. This will create approximately 5 year's worth of further works once it commences.

There is a potential for further inspections, general maintenance and repair of existing and proposed infrastructure as well.

It's expected to commence early next year but given that there are more approvals required and other hurdles to overcome, this could go back a few months.

From what we understand there will be a variety of different vessels through these 5 years. Vessels expected to be on the project include installation vessels, construction vessels, pipelay vessels, support and supply vessels, tugs, barges, heavy lift vessels, and more.

Whilst we are in a time of uncertainty given the price of oil and the impact of COVID-19, there is light at the end of the tunnel.

In Unity,

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***"Australian Democracy was built on Civil Disobedience"***

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