



Offshore Update - 06/04/2020

ATT Offshore Members,

This is the most recent update in regards to the Offshore Oil and Gas sector.

WA Boarder Closure Update

If you don't already know by now, the WA Emergency Management Act has new provisions for FIFO/ Maritime workers. In short, what it means for us is that any **FIFO/ Maritime Worker that enters into WA must go into Self-isolation upon arrival.**

Click on the link below to view quarantine directions regarding the border closures:

<https://www.mua.org.au/sites/mua.org.au/files/WA%20Branch/Quarantine%20%28Closing%20the%20Border%29%20Directions.pdf>

The attachment was received around 8.30am Sunday morning when it was signed off by the West Australian Government. It was then released a short time later to the broader industry. Until this was released no one could say with any real certainty how our industry would be handled.

This has left a few Employers rushing to ensure that they meet crew change dates etc so to avoid paying any double bubble/ penalty rates to those members headed into overcycle.

Gangway Hopping through COVID is still NOT ON

For those greedy individuals that think its ok to work with multiple Employers throughout this crisis, they should think things through. Thousands of Australian workers have been stood down or have had their employment terminated as a result of COVID-19. Some of our members are being selfishly money hungry and are going from job to job before taking their accrued leave. These individuals should be ashamed of themselves.

Gangway Hopping without a crisis on our hands is bad enough, doing it when we are facing such uncertain times is outright disgusting. In the past few weeks, 3 of our members have been caught out going up and down gangways from Employer to Employer. This goes against every principle that our Union stands for and fights to protect.

The 3 members found to have been doing the wrong thing have now been spoken to by the appropriate officials and this has now been resolved. Members are encouraged to stay vigilant so we can call out any other perpetrators.

Just a reminder to all – many of us have been casual workers at some point in our careers and to be stealing a job from another casual worker is wage theft at its lowest point. We all have families to

feed, so we must continue to share the work so others can be paid to maintain a roof over their heads or a meal on their table. You wouldn't like it if you didn't have work, but heard of someone else doing this, so don't do it to them.

Woodside Play Russian Roulette with the jobs of ALL FIFO Workers – (from the Offshore Alliance FB page)

Woodside's pig-headed stupidity and incompetent risk-mitigation strategies runs the risk of destroying the jobs of all FIFO workers in Western Australia.

The Offshore Alliance, other FIFO-Unions and responsible employers, recognise the need for negotiated and agreed interim workplace changes to ensure that there is a reduced risk of Covid-19 spreading throughout remote workplaces, points of transit and regional communities.

Woodside, however, clearly have a different view. Woodside are allowing marine contractors to bring workers straight from their WA place of residence to the offshore vessels, without supervised quarantine arrangements.

Woodside are allowing their marine contractors to play Russian Roulette with the jobs of all FIFO workers, including offshore hydrocarbon crew. We are already seeing politicians such as George Christensen calling for a ban on FIFO workers entering regional centres and communities.

<https://www.afr.com/.../ban-on-brisbane-fifos-would-force-coa...>

If Woodside's self-regulatory approach to Covid-19 fails, it will give oxygen to those politicians and regional community leaders who are seeking to shutdown FIFO jobs.

We cannot afford the reckless conduct of Woodside to wreck our industry and wreck our jobs. Clean your act up Woodside.



Could OSM be the most despicable Offshore Employer in the industry?

After all the debate and suggestions by industry that the WA Borders were going to close and that the ultimate outcome would result in all FIFO/ Maritime Workers entering the state having to self-isolate upon arrival. These idiots somehow thought that they would still be exempt!! OSM believed

that they were above the law and that the WA state government requirements didn't apply to them. Go figure.

The latest reports from the OSM office suggest that they are scrambling to try and make urgent changes to their crewing arrangements. Whoever's giving OSM their great advice should be stood down or sacked.

Friday gone, OSM management were still seeking to do a deal with the MUA to capture our industry proposal. Only these guys want to apply it to one vessel here and another vessel there. As reported to the membership on Friday given that the industry decided not to take us up on our offer, then no one gets it. We are not going to mess around with a group of vessels working one particular way whilst other vessels next to them are abiding by the EBA. So, either all of their vessels can have it or none!

OSM are currently crewing a vessel in Singapore which was not allowed alongside unless it was at Sea (or at anchor) for 14 days. The vessel came into Port about a week ago. Since the vessel arrived into Singapore, the crew haven't been able to take on provisions and have been forced to set up a vegetable patch on the back deck so that they can get their fresh fruit and vegies. After being forced into starvation, OSM are now telling these workers that they won't be paying for the isolation period upon return into Australia. This company are an utter disgrace to our industry.

Solstad Stand Down a Worker with Symptoms

Over the weekend, Solstad stood down a worker that was showing symptoms of the Coronavirus. Whilst the worker was not in an MUA position, we can report that there was this individual was showing flu like symptoms. When they were questioned whether or not they were sick, they replied with "its ok I don't have a temperature". Not having a temperature does not mean that you are clear of COVID-19.

Whilst each individual seafarer had been required to complete a health declaration they were also required to advise Solstad management if they had presented with any other symptoms since completing the declaration. All members must ensure that they report these documents truly and raise any issues with the Employer immediately.

Credit, where's its due – Solstad managed this case swiftly and openly.

Some Employers Call on Members to Relocate

Just a reminder, that if your company asks you to relocate then its suggested that you speak with us before locking yourself into a deal that we can't undo.

We are aware that some operators including MMA, Maersk along with others have been actively asking their Employees to move to other states. If this has happened, then let us know.

Job Seeker/ Job Keeper for Offshore appears to be NON-APPLICABLE

I have been receiving a heap of question in relation to the governments Job keeper payments.

After reviewing the job seeker/ keeper information it doesn't not appear that our members in the Oil and Gas sector would be eligible to make a claim and possibly the Employers couldn't either. Having said this, the legislation hasn't been released so all of this is still subject to change.

The following link has a heap of information for these interested in reading through it, particularly on the eligibility components.

<https://www.business.gov.au/risk-management/emergency-management/coronavirus-information-and-support-for-business/jobkeeper-payment>

Here's a quick break down for you;

Employers will be eligible for the subsidy if:

1. their business has a turnover of less than \$1 billion and their turnover has fallen by more than 30 per cent (of at least a month); or
2. their business has a turnover of \$1 billion or more and their turnover has fallen by more than 50 per cent (of at least a month); and
3. the business is not subject to the Major Bank Levy.

Current information on the impact of Covid-19 in the Offshore sector is limited.

Member Eligibility:

Eligible employees are employees who:

1. are currently employed by the eligible employer (including those stood down or re-hired);
2. were employed by the employer at 1 March 2020;
3. are full-time, part-time, or long-term casuals (a casual employed on a regular basis for longer than 12 months as at 1 March 2020);

In Unity,

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"Australian Democracy was built on Civil Disobedience"

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