



Offshore Update - 09/04/2020

Comrades,

There is much to report yet again. Some of this is hot off the press.

Please take the time to read through the following report and ensure that this email is distributed to the members in your contact lists.

All members that are fortunate enough to have work are also reminded to contact their branch and remove themselves off the database. We have had a few reports from Employers highlighting that individuals are already in work with themselves or elsewhere.

Flights Cancelled

From midnight tonight Virgin Australia have grounded all flights nationally except flights between Sydney and Melbourne. This is an act of industrial thuggery by Virgin Australia in an attempt to have the government use your taxpayer's money for their gain. Reports suggest that Virgin Australia don't intend on starting their fleet back up again until around the 15th of June.

Qantas have a similar agenda; from the information we've received the next available flight between Karratha and Perth won't be until the 21st of April. Similar issues will occur with other destinations.

As a result of these changes, there will be a significant impact on upcoming and future crew changes across the sector. Many operators are seeking other options including charter flights, however, as we understand many of these flights have already been engaged by the Oil & Gas majors along with the major Mining operators thus leaving the industry operators and manning agents with limited options. These Oil and Gas Majors and Mining operators should be chartering these flights directly so that the Maritime sector continues to stay afloat.

One option being explored for our industry operators and manning agents is for our members to be bussed from Perth to Karratha. With roadblocks along the way this trip could be upwards of 24 hours on the road. I am aware of one company that have decided against this and have sailed their vessel into Fremantle to crew change here.

From our end we have already been in touch with the WA Government and each of the operators in our industry. The view is to push for the Government to make charter flights available to the smaller industry players. We expect that the operators would also be lobbying government in an attempt to keep our industry alive.

There are still lots of questions to be answered in relation to this and we will update you all as soon as we know more.

Updated Quarantine Arrangements for non-cruise Maritime and Air Crew (This from today's National Cabinet meeting):

Australia's skilled maritime workforce plays a unique and strategically important role in Australia's supply chains.

National Cabinet agreed that the Australian Government and all states and territories will implement a consistent and immediate exemption for non-cruise maritime crew to provide for the transiting to and from their places of work, within and across jurisdictions with agreed documentation.

National Cabinet noted that states and territories may adopt additional protocols in consultation with industry that creates protection for crews on board vessels, and will put in place appropriate penalties for companies and individuals that are found to be in breach of the requirements of the exemption which will be reviewed on 1 June 2020.

The Australian Border Force, in consultation with the Commonwealth Department of Health, will continue to manage the safe movement of maritime crew.

Air crew play a vital role in maintaining a connection between Australia and other nations.

National Cabinet agreed to implement the revised advice from the AHPPC in relation to air crew quarantine exemptions. As a result, air crew on international flights will be required to self-isolate at their place of residence (or hotel if not in their local city) between flights or for 14 days, whichever is shorter.

Domestic air crew are exempt from self-isolation requirements except when a state or territory specifically prohibits entry.

Boarder Restrictions & Isolation periods

Any Interstate workers travelling between states should be prepared in respect to their identification and documentation that they carry. There have been reports of various Marine crew caught up in different states without having enough detail.

Members travelling should take with them;

- Passport;
- Driver's licence;
- Seamans book;
- Any documents provided by the Employer;
- Contract of Employment;
- AMSA certification of your classification as a Marine Cook, IR or Marine Steward etc.
- Essential Service Letters;
- Arrivals form;
- Health Declaration forms;
- Copy of the attached completed form (when entering WA);
- Email receipt from WA Police; and
- Company travel letter.

Also, whilst travelling through public spaces, members should be requesting that their Employers provide some basic PPE if not already supplied.

A basic PPE Kit for travelling should include:

- Thermometers for regular temp checks;
- Face Masks;
- Hand Sanitiser; and
- Gloves.

Reminder to all MUA Members

Members isolating or in transit that are staying at hotels and alike are reminded to behave appropriately.

Whilst we don't believe that our members have played up, we have had reports that hotel staff have been verbally abused. A group of Inpex workers were all terminated last week for getting on the drink and abusing hotel staff. We won't accept that behaviour! If any MUA member is caught out harassing hotel staff or others they will be made answerable to the Executive of the Union.

Any member in a hotel are subject to D&A testing as you are on company time. It is the Unions position that the membership does not consume alcohol whilst engaged by any Offshore Employer.

The reminder is that it could be your Sister, Brother, Mother, Father or Daughter etc working at one of these places. Treat these workers with the respect that they deserve, they are workers, like us.

Offshore EBA Update

The log of claims has been compiled and there were approximately:

- 102 emails sent in with claims;
- 402 total number of claims;
- From 32 vessels.

We expect to have a more detailed summary out to the membership in the next week. We will be seeking endorsement of the log of claims which is the next step in our EBA campaign. It is our intention to work through claims with the Offshore Membership over the next 4 weeks. Following on from this, we will then write to the Employers asking them to commence the negotiations sometime in May.

Naturally there could be some delays as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

Easter Weekend

As always, the MUA wish you and your families a Happy Easter, hopefully you are all with your loved ones through this time.

Stay safe comrades.

In Unity,

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"Australian Democracy was built on Civil Disobedience"

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