



ATT Offshore Members,

The past 2 weeks have been intense for many of our members to say the least. Things have changed more regularly than a baby does its nappy. If you were on this week's hook ups (other than today), there have been further updates take place that are of significance. Please take the time to read through this Offshore Update and ensure that the membership on board work through this as well.

Its quite a lengthy update, but important that you work your way through this over the weekend.

AMMA, Woodside and Co Reject MUA peace offer of 6 week swings without penalty!

If there was ever a time to bring AMMA and their clients together with the MUA – you would think it would be over a global crisis that affects us all. Nope! AMMA couldn't deliver.

As you are all aware, the MUA went to the table with a more than generous offer of extending our swings out and forgoing the double bubble provisions for up to 6 weeks. All we wanted was to ensure that you all had a safe workplace to go to, so in exchange we wanted all crew to have to isolate prior to joining.

So we began speaking to our members over the past few days and we managed to get to approx. 300 Offshore workers. All but 4 endorsed the unions position and the Unions stance in relation to the handling of this matter.

Whilst earlier in the week we were reporting that it appeared AMMA and Co were on side, last night we received a call to advise us otherwise. AMMA under new leadership of Ben Obrien (former MMA representative) had one job to do and that was to convince the Oil Majors that we were on side. The new face that runs AMMA, has let the industry down.

This could be the greatest fail of leadership (other than Scott Morrison through the bush fire debarkle) that this nation has seen in recent times.

As a result of their inactions, we as a Union must go back to the EBA and apply those terms and conditions that we have in black and white, so therefore there will be no deviation from the EBA provisions. No 6 week swings, No forgoing of double bubble. Once again, it's our position that NO Member or vessel should be agreeing on terms with their Employer before speaking with us in the first instance. Its important that we remain on the same page.

Before we actually reached agreement with the industry, some Employers had run off and told their clients that "they got 6 week swings" and now that they don't - they are squealing like a pig about to be slaughtered. Serves these outfits right for backtracking and not reaching a sensible outcome. Having said this, our door remains open to any Employer that want to apply these terms across all of their operations.

Oil & Gas Industry put profits before safety!

As apart of our offer, we wanted to ensure that the crew on board of these vessels were safe. This is what drove us to agree to 6 weeks away but most importantly we wanted all personnel joining a vessel to be isolated beforehand. This was the only way that a vessel could be deemed to be safe by us.

Some of the flow on effect as a result of Employer groups not being proactive, may mean that if a worker doesn't correctly isolate, they could take the virus on board with them and bring down the vessel and possibly the industry. The blame will not be on those workers it will be on those GREEDY Employers that refuse to pay for the isolation period of their workforce prior to joining the vessel. We wont be letting up on them either, if or when that occurs.

Industry Employer Reps AMMA & MIAL provide differing opinions on WA State Boarder closures!

This is embarrassing for these to outfits to say the least. Your Employers pay tens of thousands of dollars each year to get accurate advice from these organisations and neither of them can provide a definitive decision. The two anti-union bodies that provide the advice to your Employers have differing views.

MIAL suggest that interstate personnel are exempt from the 14 day isolation period, whilst AMMA say that Maritime workers are not exempt.

We have formed our opinion based on the ABC article below and the specific quotes from Premier Mark McGowan. Similar to AMMA we believe that Maritime workers are not exempt from the 14 day isolation period when entering into WA. If you have a read of this article, they quote;

“ Exemptions apply for essential services, FIFO workers

Mr McGowan said there would be some very limited exemptions to the border closures, including:

- *Healthcare workers*
- *Emergency services workers*
- *Transport freight and logistics*
- *People with specialist skills not available in WA*
- *National or state security and governance, and*
- *Courts and judicial services*

Mr McGowan said entry on compassionate grounds may also be granted.

*Exemptions would also apply for fly-in, fly-out workers and their families, **but strict 14-day self-isolation measures would need to be followed when they first entered the state.**”*

<https://mobile.abc.net.au/news/2020-04-02/coronavirus-sees-wa-close-state-borders-from-midnight-sunday/12114648?pfmredir=sm>

To be clear, all we are trying to avoid is you guys getting caught out at the airport as our Solstad members are currently facing in Broome as I type this email.

WA is discussing the possibility of issuing a licencing system to FIFO workers to make it easier whilst travelling. More to come on this.

Internal Shires Call for stronger Boundary restrictions!

Over in QLD George Christensen wrote to the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, urging her to suspend all FIFO workers heading to Mackay from Brisbane! These calls have been echoed by some local mayors in northern parts of Queensland as well.

Similarly, the Mayor of Peel in WA has asked that Perth travellers don't head into Mandurah given the average age there is 50+.

The reason I publish this, is to demonstrate that there may be further restrictions placed on our border controls and that FIFO workers are not by any means safe.

Industry move to scrap Awards altogether

Industry has made a move to get rid of the Award system that underpins industries across the nation. At a time where workers and people are desperate, these anti-union organisations go to get rid of the only other tool (apart from an EBA) that protects workers rights. Millions of people across the nation have lost their jobs already and don't have an income and may not be eligible for this government wage subsidy, yet they continue to kick the working people of this nation whilst they are already on their knees.

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Shame on them!

Members isolating in Hotels

It continues to be our position that any member having to isolate in a hotel to or from work as a result of either the government or the Employer should be paid a dead day for each day in isolation. If any member is put into a position that they are told to isolate in a hotel without pay, contact the appropriate Official so that this can be challenged as soon as you can. Once again, do not sign anything agreeing to forego any entitlement such as this.

We are confident that we can run this up successfully, but needs to be tested!

General Detail

Whilst I will be the vocal point for the Offshore EBA campaign and through the COVID-19 crisis, all members are reminded to go through the delegates structure.

That is, in the first instance speak to your delegate either on board your vessel or discuss with your Consultative Committee Member. They should then be speaking with the responsible Official of the Union for that company.

Together, we will prevail.

In Unity,

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“Australian Democracy was built on Civil Disobedience”

Maritime Union of Australia || WA BRANCH

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