



Queensland Branch News



8 October 2014

PUBLIC ASSETS

A “so called” independent audit entitled the *Commission of Audit* headed up by a former National wannabee, who never was, Leader, only to be Treasurer – Peter Costello, has now lead to Asset Leasing by the Queensland Treasurer – Tim Nicholls. He openly purports that leasing is not Privatisation. He won't be a Parliamentarian at the time the lease expires, hopefully he won't be next year.

The leasing of Public Assets, electricity and ports, is not different to a sale, there will be private equity multi-national corporations circling like vultures ready to feast on the carcass of publicly owned assets.

Why? Because we will see publicly owned monopolies turned into privately owned monopolies.

Who competes against the Port of Gladstone? The 2013/2014 financial year results tabled in Parliament, on 29th September indicated a record profit of \$177.9 million, 29% above expectations. The CEO of Gladstone Ports Corporation also has indicated to the media that trade is expected to grow by a further 50% in the next 3 years.

We have reported previously in the Branch News that port related charges have skyrocketed in Brisbane as a result of Privatisation, with Stevedoring Companies introducing an infrastructure levy in November 2010. Since that time the charge per container has risen by over 60%.

Who pays for that charge? Quite simply, for export products as a primary producer or manufacturer, the producer or maker pays. If it is a purchase of imported products, the consumer pays.

There will be rallies in the near future against the sale of our assets under the banner of Not4Sale in regional areas. Organisers and Delegates have been advised of the dates. There will also be a welcoming committee for the Community Cabinet Meeting in Bundaberg on Sunday 19th October, with a rally and BBQ.

Deputy Branch Secretary, Trevor Munday will be taking a Sunday drive to Bundaberg and would be happy to be accompanied by members who may be available.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

National Council will be held from 13th – 17th October. The theme of Council will be fighting the Abbot Government. What a raft of issues there will be to fight against including (but not limited to):

- Offshore Visas
- Relaxation of the conditions of issuing of 457 Visas
- Review of the Coastal Trading Act

There will also be:

- International Reports
- National Reports in all areas of our industrial areas
- ACTU President, Ged Kearney will address Council

In addition to the above, reports will be delivered by every Branch to National Council. The Queensland Branch Report has been compiled in this regard.

Additional Reports will be delivered by the Veterans, Youth and ATSI Representatives to Council.

Annual General Meetings will be held at a date to be confirmed. The Branch has committed to conducting AGM's in the following Ports: Cairns, Townsville, Bowen, Mackay, Gladstone and Brisbane. These meetings will be held in regional areas as requested by Branch Committee Members and Delegates in the respective areas.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

DP WORLD

Industrial action was enacted at DP World, Brisbane on Friday 3rd October via a stoppage of 4 hours on day shift, with a further 8 hours stoppage following at the commencement of evening shift. Local meetings continue on 9th-10th October with further National Meetings set down for 29th October. Members will be advised of outcomes of local meetings.

BRISBANE AND STRADBROKE FERRIES

Assistant Branch Secretary, Paul Sheehan continues to negotiate with elected delegates in this area. These agreements have never been negotiated by the Queensland Branch although we have had agreements in a lot of areas previously with Sydney Harbour Ferries being the largest amongst the membership. Paul is seeking to establish enhanced conditions of employment in this area.

TOWAGE

EA negotiations continue with SMIT Towage in Gladstone with Branch Secretary, Mick Carr conducting two rounds of negotiations with delegates.

PB Towage agreements have been an ongoing negotiation with Protected Action Ballots undertaken. There have also been conferences before the Fair Work Commission.

Currently the Agreement is applicable to Townsville and Brisbane. In addition to the above, meetings have been held with PB Towage associated with the Company being successful in gaining towage tenders in the Ports of Mackay and Weipa.

PICNIC DAY 2014

DATE: Tuesday 4 November 2014 (Melbourne Cup Day)
TIME: 9.00am onwards
VENUE: The Plantation, 1204 New Cleveland Road, Gumdale

RACES FOR ALL

NOVELTY EVENTS

FUN FOR ALL

Morning tea and lunch provided – lollies, ice-creams, drinks
Train rides, super swing, merry-go-round, jumping castle, giant slide, swimming pools, tennis courts and beach volleyball courts.

The Picnic Day is one of the social events that MUA members can participate in with their families. Let's make this picnic day enjoyable – as always.

Members who can assist with set-up, please assemble at 6.30am at the Plantation.

RELIEF OFFICIAL

Aaron Johnston (DP World Delegate and Branch Committee Member) will be relieving Official from Monday 13th October to Friday 17th October during National Council.

Aaron can be contacted via the Branch office or his mobile: 0411 863 874 or email

brisbanerelief@mua.org.au
