



Queensland Branch News



11th March 2015

MUA QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

Members are reminded that nominations are now open for offices to be filled at the MUA Quadrennial election, both on a Branch and National level. Nominations close on Tuesday 7th April at 5pm.

All members should ensure that the Branch has:

- correct residential/postal address
- ensure that their financial status is current

The MUA Web page has comprehensive coverage of the 2015 Elections, including:

- Election time line
- Current Rules
- Nomination forms

Any member who is unsure whether the Union has your current address or uncertain about their financial status should contact the Branch Office.

STEVEDORING FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

In the past couple of months there has been varying examples of breaches of the Navigation Act 2012, Section 94, which reads as follows:

Section 94 Employment of seafarers in loading and unloading

- (1) A person must not employ a seafarer at an Australian port in handling cargo in connection with the loading or unloading of a regulated Australian vessel or a foreign vessel:
 - (a) if sufficient shore labour is available; or
 - (b) if sufficient shore labour is not available – other than in accordance with any requirements prescribed by the regulations.

Those breaches have been associated with vessels leaving the Port of Brisbane without having lashing completed.

3 recent breaches have been reported directly to AMSA who have indicated to the MUA that they will visit such vessels on their return to Australia; further that they will be writing to the Stevedoring Companies to highlight the requirements of the Navigation Act.

In automated Terminals the workload is less and lashing duties are a significant component of wharfies work. Members are requested to remain vigilant in order to ensure that work is carried out in accordance with the Navigation Act. Further, all vessels covered by ITF Agreements have a Docker's Clause which circumvents Seafarers performing historical and traditional docker's work.

Members are requested to contact the Branch in circumstances where lashing is incomplete **when** it is happening – not after the event.

Alternatively AMSA can be contacted directly on (07) 3001 6800.

Circumstances over the recent months have also been highlighted to our National Office to ensure a national uniform approach is undertaken.

OFFSHORE EA UPDATE

A meeting is set down for **0900 hours, Friday 13th March in the Brisbane Office** for a report to be delivered on the Offshore Enterprise Agreement. West Australia Branch Secretary, Chris Cain and Assistant Branch Secretary, Will Tracey will be in attendance and all offshore members on leave are urged to attend.

BRISBANE CONTAINER TERMINALS (BCT)

Nominations are open for the election of delegates for the Site Committee. As discussed with the membership and current Committee, the composition will be as follows:

- 5 Operational Delegates
- 2 Maintenance (1 Electrical and 1 Fitter)

Nominations should be forwarded to the Branch Office by Tuesday 24th March 2015.

INDUSTRIAL ROUNDS

SMIT LAMNALCO TOWAGE

This Company, formerly PB Towage, has just had its National Enterprise Agreement endorsed by members. The Agreement covers the Queensland Ports of Brisbane and Townsville, which the Schedules of the Agreement covers Port Work Practices.

Smit Lamnalco was successful with the tender for Towage operations in the Queensland Ports of Weipa and Mackay.

Relief Official Brian Gallagher and Queensland Organiser Jason Miners are meeting with Smith Lamnalco in the near future in order to seek to finalise Port Work Practices (PWP) in those Ports. On completion, the Agreement will be varied to include those PWP Schedules.

At this stage Gladstone Towage arrangements will be covered under a renewed existing Agreement and further meetings are set down at 1st - 2nd April.

DP WORLD EA

Further local Part B negotiations are to be held on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March. Part A Negotiation dates are unknown at the time of writing.

Report back meetings will be held at a time to be advised following the next round of Part B meetings.

PATRICK TERMINAL EA

The MUA internally has established a Log of Claims for the upcoming Enterprise Agreement. The current Agreement expires on 30th June, 2015.

There will be a video conference involving all Terminal Committees on Monday 16th March and negotiations will commence on 25th March.

Each Terminal shall have 2 delegates at National negotiations and Stephen Elliott and Chris Swannick shall be the Brisbane delegates.

LEAVE

Assistant Branch Secretary Paul Sheehan will be on leave next week and will return on Monday 23rd March. He will not be contactable by phone and will only receive limited emails.

Please contact the Branch Office, Acting Branch Secretary Trevor Munday or Relief Official Brian Gallagher if you have any concerns or problems during this time.
