

## Queensland Labor delivers on workers' compensation

ON 17 SEPTEMBER the Queensland Parliament passed a Workers' Compensation Amendment Act which restores workers' rights removed by the Newman LNP government.

Rodney Hodgson from Maurice Blackburn labour lawyers commented: "The union movement's advocacy in securing this outcome for workers cannot be understated - in standing up for workers, informing Queenslanders of the impacts of the Newman changes for workers and importantly, helping to ensure a commitment to a repeal was made possible. The fundamental structure of the scheme has been restored to pre-Newman..."

No longer will workers have to show a "5% degree of permanent impairment" before they can claim common-law damages.

The Act also introduces provisions for firefighters diagnosed with one of 12 specified diseases that will deem their injury to be work related.

It will remove the entitlement which Newman gave bosses to obtain a copy of the compensation claims history of workers seeking employment.

## Hutchison workers stand firm

THE SACKED WHARFIES at Hutchison are keeping up their 24/7 protest line at the terminal. In the Fair Work Commission Hutchison bosses were forced to pay the sacked wharfies back on base rate until 14 October, and to negotiate.

But Hutchison are dragging their feet in the negotiations. Persistence, pressure, and solidarity are still necessary to restore these workers' rights.

Join the protest line at Curlew Street, Berth 11 Fisherman Island.

## Queensland Nickel EBA

DEPUTY STATE SECRETARY Jason Miners has met with QNI delegates for the initial EBA meeting. As usual the violins were out in full force, which left us all drowning in crocodile tears.

There will be another meeting in three weeks. Our key claims are:

- 1) fairness and equity, not a regime
- 2) a better base rate
- 3) proper stevedoring industry standards should be in every QNI EA.

## DP World members vote down EBA in Brisbane

BY AN OVERWHELMING majority, MUA members at the DP World Terminal in Brisbane have rejected the EBA placed before them.

Although they have had some 20 months of long and frustrating negotiations, protected action, and company lockouts, members at DP World are prepared to battle on to make sure the primary document that will cover their working life is one they want.

The major sticking point is Income Protection, with two areas of disagreement:

1) the ability of the workers on the job to have a provider they trust, with a proven record in the field

2) that the policy/ deed is held by an organisation that will always have members' concerns front and centre. The members have decided this should be their union.

We hope DP World management see the common sense of our argument. Their workforce has sent them a powerful message. We hope that an agreement can be reached shortly.

DP World members remain determined to have an EBA that they are comfortable with, and will keep fighting for their ideals.

Brisbane EBA Issues		
Issue	Problem	Solution
Maintenance deed	Not in EBA	Shift to EBA
Explanatory notes	Not available	Produce notes for next meeting
Income Protection		Issues will be resolved with joint policy position
VSE Scratchings	Clause needs redrafting	Parties to work through
FSE roster	9/10 weekend shifts	Adjust FSE roster
Deed on Cancellations		Discussion Required

At Risk Planned Sick Leave	DPW (New) Position on Sick Cert	As per Absent Clause
At risk personal leave, planned/ unplanned		
Finally both Continuous and shuttle Matrix members have raised concerns and we need to work through		
The claim from the company that the reinstatement of the F.M.U. position was a concern from the labour is false and only attracted one question which was of little importance.		

We also met with Robb Gibb, Community Relations Manager at ConocoPhillips. Robb Gibb was dismayed that there wasn't a Maritime College already being built and said it was a great idea.

We look forward to our next meeting with ConocoPhillips in three months' time.

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## Brisbane Ferries (Transdev)

WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER saw the Fair Work Commission hearing arising from an impasse and to seek bargaining conciliation.

The Union representation was led by Deputy State Secretary Jason Miners who, advised by the delegates, put a fair and reasonable position forward in order to reach agreement, which unfortunately was not endorsed by Transdev.

Since then the members, led by the rock-solid delegate committee, have said they will take the possibility and protected-action concept to the rank and file, which has the full support of the state secretary.

Organiser Paul Petersen has been working with me on Transdev Brisbane Ferries. It is a key organising target for the Branch, and we now have 80 odd members there.

Paul has taken to organising like a duck to water, and is a great asset to the branch.

## Gladstone Alliance Indigenous Corporation

FROM MICHAEL O'SHANE: A meeting was held on Thursday 10 September between members of the Gladstone Alliance Indigenous Corporation and, from the MUA, Qld Deputy Secretary Jason Miners and Assistant Secretary Paul Gallagher, and Indigenous Social Compact Initiative National Co-ordinator Terry O'Shane.

We from the Gladstone Alliance explained our vision to create employment by engaging with the oil and gas industry. We discussed the importance of the MUA in terms of negotiating Enterprise Agreements.

Jason suggested points including:

- Putting in place a database with resumes
- Have a structure in place before we engage with the industry representatives
- Quarterly meetings with industry representatives
- Open and transparent lines of communication
- Bring together statistics regarding unemployment, housing, health, education, mental health, incarceration, etc. affecting the indigenous communities of Gladstone and surroundings.

Paul Gallagher mentioned taking the oil and gas companies to task on building a Maritime College, as Gladstone will become one of the busiest ports in the southern hemisphere.

Jason also pointed out the MUA would help contribute towards printing costs of shirts and office supplies.