



Queensland Branch News



27th September 2012

BECHTEL DISPUTE

If you go to Bechtel's website, they state they are a global leader in engineering construction and project management. Also under the heading of community, they make the following statement:

“Communities will regard us as being responsible and responsive. We will integrate global and local perspectives, contribute sound management of resources and contribute to a better quality of life”

Bechtel is the Principal for the construction work on Curtis island; the massive coal seam gas project. As a component of the construction and for the ease of delivery of cargo, a mobile off-loading facility has been established at Curtis Island. They have chosen to call it a MOF Berth. It is a wharf – a wharf is a wharf and will always be a wharf.

The Queensland Branch has met with Bechtel management. Bechtel has thrown us in the Fair Work Australia stating that the Construction Agreement allows them to do historical and traditional stevedoring work. Further they have distributed documentation to workers on Curtis Island that is full of **LIES**, insinuating that the MUA is trying to encroach on a full gambit of work and take away the livelihood of Curtis Island workers. Further they state the MUA agreed to forgo this work.

The local community deserves to know the truth, which is that we want stevedoring work performed by one of the two local stevedoring companies. Northern Stevedoring Services carried out historical and traditional stevedoring work on a vessel (*MV Palau*) at Auckland Point – that is, discharged its cargo.

What Bechtel are saying – is that if the same vessel leaves Auckland Point with cargo and turns up at Curtis Island, it is somehow not cargo; or if a vessel goes directly to Curtis Island with its cargo loaded in another Port by dockers/wharfies, suddenly it is not cargo. The *MV Palau* was subsequently unloaded at Curtis Island without wharfies being engaged.

MUA membership in Gladstone are involved in a community campaign against Bechtel, because they are bypassing the historical and traditional values fought for over 140 years being that local stevedoring workers should be engaged in their rightful jobs.

The Queensland Branch Executive has written to the National Executive of the Union requesting that pressure be applied on Bechtel nationally as well as internationally to ensure stevedoring companies are contractually engaged to discharge cargo, meaning MUA members will be engaged .

The community campaign will be ramped up including leafleting shopping centres and letter drops and convening a community meeting in Gladstone.

We need to protect the jobs of our members otherwise employers will start up massive infrastructure projects, based on the precedent set by Bechtel and refer any commodity that is contained in a ship's hold or on deck as anything but cargo.

The Branch would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the Gladstone delegates and activists on the campaign so far.

VALE GREG FITZGIBBON

Highly experienced Waterside worker, Greg Fitzgibbon was tragically killed in the hold of the *Weaver Arrow* at approximately 9.30pm Sunday night, 23rd September 2012. Greg started as a wharfie in 1986 and is survived by his wife and 2 daughters.

The Queensland Branch has sent condolences to the Newcastle Branch on behalf of our members.

There is an investigation into the accident at the time of writing.

NATIONAL STEVEDORING CODE OF PRACTICE

The MUA has spent 2 years campaigning for NSCOP. Implicit in our campaign has been the retention of a Hatchman/Cargo space lookout. The eyes and ears of workforce when it comes to safety on board.

Submissions have been made to the Strategic Issues Group (SIG) in relation to waterfront safety; our submissions as well as stakeholders. Shipping Australia made a submission seeking to eliminate the Hatchman.

Stevedoring Companies combined to put in a joint submission which went to the SIG on Monday 24th September. They are objecting to consultation processes, saying that the NSCOP should be GUIDANCE MATERIAL ONLY.

Further they have called for the REMOVAL of the Hatchmen.

IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING – EMPLOYERS MADE THEIR SUBMISSION THE DAY AFTER
THE NEWCASTLE TRAGEDY.

EMPLOYERS SAY THEY SUPPORT SAFETY ON THE WATERFRONT – FACT OR FICTION?

STAND FOR QUEENSLAND

The *Branch News* of 13th September contained an article indicating that Workers Compensation was under review by the Campbell led LNP Government.

Workers deserve to be protected. We deserve to maintain an appropriate level of compensation benefits.

Our areas of coverage include dangerous occupations; in the first instance our focus should be accident prevention; with safe workplaces comes less injuries.

However should an injury occur, workers should be adequately compensated and have the right to pursue negligent employers. Members are requested to sign the petitions at the following website:

www.standforqld.com.au

YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Youth Committee has been up and running and has been active in a number of campaigns. The Youth Committee is looking to expand and there is a face book site - QLD MUA YOUTH.

The MUA Youth Committee have organised a bowling function, open to all members:

Time: 4pm

Date: Friday 28th September

Venue Boo Bowling Club

126 Breakfast Creek Road, Newstead
Booroodabin Community & Recreation Club

QUBE PORTS ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT

It is envisaged that the QUBE Ports EA will be distributed in the next few days. Friday 12th October has been tentatively factored in as the date to seek endorsement of the Agreement. This will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Authorised by Mick Carr, Branch Secretary and Trevor Munday, Deputy Branch Secretary, Maritime Union of Aust.
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