

## Our Coast our Tankers

At the Qld Branch Monthly Meeting held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January the following resolution was discussed, debated and carried unanimously.

***“Members of this MUA meeting congratulate the effort and commitment of our tanker crews in campaigning to save the jobs of Australian seafarer’s and secure the future of the Australian coastal product cargoes”.***

***The current situation is nothing short of a National crisis with 90% reliance on foreign crewed ships to keep Australia’s fuel supplies flowing, the fuel security of our Nation is in jeopardy with signs already beginning to appear as with the Melbourne rationing of aviation fuel in the last couple of weeks.***

***Not only is our Nation’s fuel security at risk, but jobs of highly trained Australian seafarer’s who will be replaced with foreign crews, our pristine Harbours, waterways and the Great Barrier Reef are at risk of irreparable damage from pollution and potential incident from foreign flagged and crewed vessels whose safety record over the last 10 to 15 years must be extremely concerning.***

***The Hugli Spirit action and refusal to sail which took place in Cairns over the Australia Day week end was a demonstration of commitment, concern and frustration over the inaction of LNP State and Federal Governments led by Campbell Newman and Tony Abbott to even recognize the crisis confronting our State and Nation.***

***The Cairns community is also to be congratulated for turning out in such big numbers on Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> January to see the community spirit of the MUA crew in donating their television sets to ARC, a facility that assists cerebral Palsy sufferer’s in Cairns, this was a wonderful interaction of support for members of the local Cairns community who need a hand.***

***Local ALP candidates Rob Pyne and Billy Gordon also attended and recognized the crew’s generous donation to ARC, and committed that if elected on the 31<sup>st</sup> January they would put communities, jobs, the environment and fuel security among their priorities.***

***The community again turned out on Sunday morning after hearing the crew refused to sail the vessel in protest of the lack of effort and support for trying to keep the Australian crewed vessel on the coast and working.***

***It was a mighty effort by MUA members on the vessel who marched down the gangway to waiting media and told the true story of what is going on with their vessel and the issues of Australian jobs, fuel security and the environment.***

***Also to be congratulated are the local MUA members from the Cairns Tugs who were there every minute in support of the crew.***

***This meeting further to supporting and congratulating the crew on their tremendous effort in drawing attention to the situation, also thank the Cairns community , local Unions and concerned citizens and our mighty Tug crews for being there in support, well done on a tremendous effort spearheaded by the MUA crew of “Hugli Spirit.”***

Mick Carr  
Qld Branch Secretary  
National President  
Maritime Union of Australia