

# MARITIME UNION OF AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND BRANCH

Robert Carnegie      Branch Secretary  
Jason Miners        Deputy Branch Secretary  
Paul Gallagher      Assistant Branch Secretary

ABN 93 047 659 794



Dear Sir,

3 September 2015

Re: Peaceful Protest at Fishermens Island 11.

With regards to our phone call of 2/9/15 relating to a decision to have the peaceful community assembly dismantled.

In our discussion I feel that the management and board of the Port of Brisbane are making a decision without all the available facts at its disposal.

Firstly, the reinstatement order granted by the Federal Court in the interlocutory injunction sought by the Maritime Union did not involve the 41 workers sacked by text on 6/8/15 actually going back to work only a continuance of wages up until 31/8/15 by mutual agreement of parties which has been extended to October 14.

Apart from receiving their base entitlements the 41 workers outside the gate are in exactly the same position as they were when at 2330 hrs on 6/8/15 they were terminated by text.

Secondly, the real negotiation position with Hutchison is going very, very slowly, when at times we go a step forward a further obstacle is put in its way. For example Deputy President Booth of the Fair Work Commission was to visit the terminal today 3/9/15 so a meeting could be held with all the 41 workers inside and the 41 workers outside however for the most spurious of reasons management objected and now the meeting most likely would be held next week.

Thirdly, perhaps the most emphatic reason put forward to me by your good self was that the Port of Brisbane felt that in some way its international reputation is being harmed by a Peaceful Community Assembly being held at Fisherman's Island 11. I for one fail to see that a Peaceful Assembly being held in a port can harm in any way the Port of Brisbane's reputation. Democracy is and sometimes may not look perfect on a photo shoot at times BUT it is the cornerstone of our lives.

As the Queensland Branch Secretary of the Maritime Union of Australia I am prepared to speak to the community there and make sure all terms of the lease you extended to us is strictly enforced, I will make sure it is made tidier. If required, tents can be rearranged etc.

However I must make this very clear to the Port of Brisbane. Members of the Maritime Union played a major role in building and today running the terminals that are at the heart of the Port of Brisbane complex at terminal Island. It is an area we believe we are as much a shareholder as the investors who make up the ownership register of the Port of Brisbane.

We have an absolute and fundamental right in this country to speak our minds freely and to demonstrate peacefully. We intend to defend that right should we need to with whatever means are at our disposal including but not limited to the political, community and industrial protest which would occur should we be attempted to be moved off the tiny parcel of land leased to us we thought of in good faith from the Port of Brisbane.

We ask only that the status quo remain (with but not limited to the changes I propose above), we ask that our rights as working class people, many of whom built and operate this Port today are given the same equal rights and consideration as the corporations which profit from the working people who built and work in the Port of Brisbane.

Kind Regards

**Bob Carnegie**  
Branch Secretary