

Media Statement

23 October 2023

DP World calls on CFMEU-MUA DIVISION to come back to the bargaining table

Extended industrial action impacts Australian SMEs and the upcoming holiday season.

Sydney, Australia, 23 October 2023: DP World, a globally recognised logistics provider, acknowledges the recent notification of further industrial action by the CFMEU-MUA DIVISION.

Impact to Australian Small and Medium Enterprises

Ongoing protected industrial action (PIA) by the CFMEU-MUA DIVISION, which has seen rolling stop work bans since 6 October, is having a profound impact on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Australia.

DP World plays a pivotal role in facilitating the operations of SMEs, ensuring the smooth flow of goods across borders; into the warehouses and onto the shelves of Australian businesses across the country. However, ongoing industrial action has unleashed substantial delays and disruptions across Australia's import and export supply chains. *

For example, at DP World's terminals in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Fremantle, the process of offloading a ship usually takes up to two days. Due to the union's PIA, the timeline to offload a ship has extended to seven to eight days, resulting in increased cargo emissions, significantly slowing the flow of goods in Australia and creating a dire and direct impact on SMEs.

It's crucial to recognise that the delays caused by the industrial action are not only affecting goods coming into Australia for consumers, but it is also disrupting the export of Australia's top produce to the global market at a time when demand and opportunity are increasing.

Upcoming holiday season impact

If the union continues in this direction, it's highly likely that our customers will encounter shelves with scarce inventory. The disruption and delays in the supply chain caused by the PIA will create an unsettling impact for the upcoming holiday preparations for countless households across the nation.

DP World has consistently approached negotiations with goodwill, and over the last six months of Enterprise Bargaining Agreements (EBA), we've demonstrated flexibility and made concessions where appropriate. However, the CFMEU-MUA DIVISION's position remains inflexible and uncompromising.

Our efforts to make progress in the EBA negotiations are encountering continued resistance. Discussions between DP World and the CFMEU-MUA DIVISION were scheduled to take place on 17-19 October, however with the Union failing to meet the expectation of ceasing protected industrial action, these meetings did not take place. Not only has the Union declined this requirement, but they have also declared an escalation of bans and work disruptions, which have been effective from 15 October 2023.

The stance of the CFMEU-MUA DIVISION is clear: they insist on the approval of all their demands, which would result in considerable financial strain on our company, impacting our clients, the Australian logistics network, and, in the end, the general Australian population.

For Australia to have a modernised supply chain, it's essential for DP World to consent to all 365 Claims. This decision could have repercussions for the Australian public.

We urge the CFMEU-MUA DIVISION to reconsider its approach, engage constructively, and prioritise outcomes that benefit not only their members but the broader Australian community. While we respect the right to industrial action, its current trajectory will, regrettably, harm our workers through lost wages and impact the wider community through service disruptions.

We remain committed to finding a resolution and are available to meet in the suggested timeframes. However, for the sake of constructive dialogue, we hope the CFMEU-MUA DIVISION will reconsider its decision and suspend any planned industrial action during the negotiation period. Our commitment remains to serve the Australian public and businesses and ensure that disruptions are minimised.

**Supply chain impacts includes lifesaving medicines, agriculture, aquaculture, dairy, poultry, horticulture, fast moving consumer goods (FMCG), viniculture.*