



AIMPE

Australian Institute of
Marine and Power Engineers
HEAD OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

6TH JANUARY 2016

TUG ENGINEERS VOTE TO TAKE PROTECTED ACTION

Tug Engineers employed by Svitzer Australia Pty Ltd in ports around Australia have voted overwhelmingly to take Protected Action following unsuccessful negotiations over the replacement of their existing enterprise Agreement.

Subsequently the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers (AIMPE) has given notice to Svitzer that AIMPE members will commence industrial action on 12th January 2016 in the ports of Geelong, Newcastle and Sydney/Botany and on 13th January 2016 in Melbourne and Brisbane.

Svitzer employs around 200 Engineers on over 60 tugboats in 18 ports around mainland Australia.

Over 140 of the Engineers employed by Svitzer voted in the ballot – a very solid number given that the postal ballot took place over the Christmas – New Year period. Of those who voted, 95% were in favour of taking 12 hour stoppages.

Since the introduction of Enterprise Agreements the AIMPE has negotiated independent Agreements with Svitzer and its predecessor companies. Every Agreement since 1996 has been a separate Agreement for the Engineers. This has ensured that important issues including Engineers' duties; Engineers' recruitment procedures and standards; dry-docking conditions; and emergency maintenance terms have been able to be agreed by the Engineers to their satisfaction.

Since October 2015 the company has been pushing for the Engineers to agree to be covered by the same Agreement that applies to the deckhands and the skippers. This would mean that other personnel could determine the outcomes of the Engineer specific issues. AIMPE has rejected this approach at every meeting. There are also a

number of other issues where the AIMPE negotiating team was not able to reach agreement with the Svitzer negotiators.

Mr Byrne finished by saying “AIMPE has not made any outrageous pay claims and our members hope that the company sees good sense and agrees with AIMPE to settle on a separate agreement to cover Engineers. AIMPE has as late as Tuesday sought further discussions with Svitzer with this objective in mind.”

“It is important to note that holiday makers on cruise vessels will not be affected by any Protected Action. Also national security operations will be exempt from any action.”

NOTE: Tug service to cruise ships and Defence related vessels will be exempted from any protected action.

(Attached information on AIMPE and the sector)

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Federal Secretary

AIMPE

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MEDIA INFORMATION.

AIMPE (the Australian institute of Marine and Power Engineers) was established in 1881 and is the professional and industrial organisation that exists to represent the interests of marine engineers on vessels in various sectors of the Australian maritime industry.

Marine Engineers on tugs are qualified under maritime laws as Marine Engineer Class 1, Class 2 or Class 3 and have a trade background (qualifications that can take more than 10 years to obtain).

Tugs are very powerful sophisticated vessels which assist ships to berth in confined port areas. Tugs are required to be maintained to high standards to ensure that tugs do not fail during critical operations.

Duties of Marine Engineers include the responsibility for the operation, maintenance and repair of all machinery on board the tug. Engineers have to provide an immediate response to any mechanical issues on board tugs during operations including ship manoeuvres which are the most hazardous day to day jobs in ports. In addition, since 2000, Engineers have assisted on deck with the operation of the tug winch and line handling.

Svitzer (Svitzer Australian Pty Ltd) is part of the Danish A P Moeller Maersk Group which is a billion dollar logistics company that also owns and operates container line Maersk shipping and various other offshore operations around the world. Svitzer bought the Australian company Adsteam Marine in 2007.

The ports where Svitzer operates tugboats include:

- Adelaide
- Albany
- Bowen
- Brisbane
- Cairns/Mourilyan
- Eden
- Fremantle
- Geelong
- Geraldton
- Kwinana
- Melbourne
- Newcastle
- Port Kembla
- Spencer Gulf – Whyalla/Port Pirie
- Sydney
- Westernport.