

Victoria International Container Terminal Limited

78 Webb Dock Drive, Port Melbourne, VIC, 3207 PO BOX 5032, Garden City, VIC, 3207

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A lot of questions are being asked around why this picket is continuing when the Supreme Court ruled in VICT's favour and granted us an injunction.

The answer is that the government now have the tools to start the process of moving the MUA on, which the MUA are trying to counter by stating that it's a community picket and not run by the MUA. They have now got support from other non-maritime unions, namely the CFMEU, the ETU (electricians) and the RTBU (rail, tram and bus union) to continue the illegal picket. This appears to be culminating with a planned major rally tomorrow outside the truck entrance to our terminal.

The next steps will be to monitor continued MUA breaches and any contempt of the court order, which is now criminal conduct, as well as to seek a widening of the injunction, extending liability to these other unions. This second Supreme Court hearing is currently planned for Friday. With that said, there is a mass rally planned for tomorrow, down at Webb Dock which could impact the proposed court date.

We have already outsourced the vessel next week (CPO Jacksonville) to ensure that the Christmas trade is kept moving. We fully understand the immediate priority and concern which lies with the imports and exports that remain blockaded at VICT. Because the MUA have been very clear, they will make no exemption for any cargo. This includes, but not limited to, general cargo, reefer cargo, hazardous cargo etc.

Rest assured that we are trying everything possible to put pressure on the government to help unlock this blockade and push the alleged unfair dismissal case of the employee (who failed to gain federal government security clearance in order to obtain an MSIC) back to the domain of the Fair Work Commission where it belongs; not on an illegal picket line holding the entire economy hostage.

We are taking every legal avenue open to us. We cannot legally remove this picket ourselves. Therefore, we must rely on the engagement with the state and federal government bodies in order to get them to understand the wider consequences regarding the illegal actions the unions are taking. We are in direct contact with the Premier's Office to seek an urgent resolution in this matter.

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