

Victoria International Container Terminal Limited

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MEDIA RELEASE**WEBB DOCK PICKET ALL ABOUT AN MUA MEMBER VICT CANNOT EMPLOY**

Mr Anders Dommestrup, Chief Executive of Victoria International Container Terminal Ltd, said today the union officials organising the picket at Webb Dock were demanding that VICT offer work to an MUA member with a criminal record that makes it illegal for him to work in the secure areas at Webb Dock under Federal law.

‘Those officials are trying to pressure VICT into offering work to a person who is ineligible to hold the security clearance necessary to work on docks. They are pressuring us to do something that is illegal for us to do.

‘These are the facts about the finding of the person’s failure to gain security clearance:

‘He commenced as a casual employee on 28 November 2016 and applied for a Maritime Security Identification Card in February this year. He was notified in March that he had failed to gain an MSIC and informed VICT of this in November, after which VICT informed him he would no longer be offered shifts due to these circumstances.

‘As it stands, the person concerned simply cannot be employed at VICT.

‘I am bewildered by the actions of the union officials.

‘They have kept a picket in place since last week, preventing VICT from getting on with implementing the business growth we committed to the Andrews’ Government we would undertake as our contribution to the Government’s plan for Victoria’s economic well-being.

‘The officials have kept over 1000 containers motionless on Webb Dock, badly affecting many small and medium-sized businesses, putting perishable goods at risk, damaging Victoria’s reputation as a reliable trading partner and giving Sydney’s Port Botany a competitive leg-up.

‘It’s time the officials came clean with the people that they have set up to fail on the picket line. It’s time they told the picketers that their time and effort are wasted. It’s time the officials abandon the picket, allow VICT staff back on site, stop preventing trucks entering and leaving the site and permit Victoria’s importers and exporters to start doing business again.

‘The MUA are party to VICT’s enterprise agreement and this means that they approved it.

‘VICT is ready to resume the business growth to which we are committed and we will be doing all we can to restore the faith in the Port of Melbourne that a small number of union officials have irresponsibly and shamelessly damaged.’

About Victoria International Container Terminal Limited (VICT)

VICT was appointed in 2014 to build and operate the new automated container terminal located at the Port of Melbourne’s Webb Dock East. Currently, VICT lays claim to being the world’s most automated container terminal and will be able to service the larger vessels which shipping lines want to bring to Australia.

VICT’s facility delivers a leading global standard in modern container terminal design, innovation and operations, and is the flagship facility in Australia’s premier port. VICT utilises the best-proven technologies and innovations to deliver automated operations from the gate to the quayside.

VICT is owned by International Container Terminal Services, Incorporated (ICTSI), a global container terminal operator headquartered in Manila, Philippines with a portfolio of 30 terminals throughout 21 countries, across 6 continents. ICTSI has a pledged commitment to supporting the welfare and education of young people in the communities where it operates.

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