

## Media Release

26 May 2011

### Maritime Union rejects Patrick offer to conciliate and instead holds country to ransom

Australian stevedoring company Patrick today confirmed that the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) had rejected its offer to enter into voluntary conciliation and arbitration before the Fair Work Commission.

The Company appealed to the Union to demonstrate a willingness to pursue a resolution to the negotiations in good faith by entering a voluntary process of conciliation and arbitration. Patrick Director, Paul Garaty said, "It is difficult to understand why, when Mick Doleman (MUA Deputy National Secretary) is publicly stating the MUA wants a return to bargaining, after 8 long months of negotiations, 24 meetings and 10 hearings before Fair Work Australia, they have refused an offer to enter into voluntary conciliation and arbitration which would ensure a fair and balanced outcome.

"If the Union really do want to re-enter negotiations we call on them to lift their bans on the loading and unloading of ships and engage with us in the Fair Work process.

"By not engaging with us in a voluntary process before an independent third party demonstrates that the Union are intent on carrying out their full seven days of industrial action in pursuit of their 20 percent increase in the Company's labour costs.

"The Union does not want conciliation as they would be forced to justify their wage demands and be made to consider productivity offsets as part of the agreement.

"It is extremely disappointing that the Union have chosen a route of industrial action that will damage a range of Australian export businesses including cotton and meat and jeopardise key imports for a range of retailers as a result of the planned seven days of MUA industrial action", he said.

The Company will now explore the possibility of compulsory arbitration in front of Fair Work Australia to bring about a resolution.

---

## Background:

### Impact of Industrial Action by port:

- Brisbane – 6 days of action, 8 vessels and 7,150 containers directly impacted
- Sydney – 7 days of action, 12 ships and 16,400 directly impacted
- Fremantle – 7 days of action, 6 ships and 4,400 containers directly impacted

### Patrick Offer:

- Patrick's most recent offer includes a five percent wage increase each year including one percent at risk if internationally recognised safety, productivity and efficiency targets are met.
- The Company has also offered improved pay and working conditions for its permanent part time employees and increased redundancy from 40 to 52 weeks for all employees.
- Patrick employees currently work on average 35 hours per week or 185 days per year for an average salary of \$100,000.
- The Union's revised claim will cost the company \$32,000 per employee without any change in productivity.
- The cost of the union claims over each of the three years are \$32 million, \$39 million and \$50 million respectively without productivity offsets.

**Media Contacts:**      **Rhianna Fursdon 0457 519 289,**      **Vida Cheeseman 0410 597 547**



Safety. Customer. One Team.

