

Media Release**27 May 2011****MUA has yet to guarantee there won't be more strike action**

Australian stevedoring company Patrick has welcomed the eleventh hour decision by the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) to lift its industrial action at Sydney, Melbourne and Fremantle container terminals but says that the parties are no closer to a resolution of this matter.

Patrick Director Paul Garaty says that the MUA's decision to lift the bans does not change the fundamental issues behind the MUA's claims. "We are pleased that the Union has recognised what they were doing to the importers and exporters of Australia. These people have suffered enough at the hands of natural disasters without now having to suffer at the hands of the MUA.

"Having held the importers and exporters in this country to ransom it appears the Union want to be thought of as heroes for removing their own industrial action. Make no mistake, unless the MUA removes the threat of further industrial action, it will continue to call strikes which hurts not only our business, but also the hundreds of small businesses, farmers, truckers and retailers who are already voicing their concerns.

"The Union should guarantee all Australians that it will take no further strikes, bans or limitations of any kind in their pursuit of an unsustainable wage increase and other demands from the Company.

"It is ironic that the Union has withdrawn its industrial action at a time when the validity of that action would have been tested in Fair Work Australia. The Union will now return to work on the weekend and make up much of its lost pay on overtime.

"As part of the negotiations Patrick has offered an increase of fifteen percent over the life of the agreement – which equates to a five percent increase each and every year for three years with an in-built productivity component to balance wage increases with improvements in productivity consistent with the premise of the Fair Work Act," he said.

Patrick will continue to work within the Fair Work process and continues to offer to the Union the opportunity to enter into voluntary conciliation to reach agreement.

Background:**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.

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