

Statement On Behalf Of Svitzer Tug Boat Captains

The Australian Maritime Officers Union are the representatives of tug boat captains employed by Svitzer Australia Pty Ltd.

After 3 years of failed industrial negotiations for a new workplace agreement Svitzer has announced an indefinite lockout of workers from Friday.

Tug boat masters are highly qualified maritime professionals who as well as ensuring the safe passage of goods through Australia's ports, give primacy to the safety of lives at sea and the protection of the marine environment.

The AMOU have attended each bargaining meeting with Svitzer since negotiations commenced in late 2019. The AMOU has few claims on the table. One claim is a wage increase.

AMOU members were prevented by Svitzer from taking protected industrial action in March 2022 on grounds of the economic harm a 48 hour work stoppage would cause. 3 weeks ago Svitzer objected to tug masters refusing to come in off leave to fill slots in the roster due to the economic harm it would cause.

Last week the AMOU pleaded with Svitzer to return to bargaining and join us in ending all disputation. This offer was rejected by Svitzer.

AMOU members are distressed that they will be locked out of their workplace and barred from boarding their tugs preventing them from providing any emergency response to maritime incidents.

In July, it was Svitzer employees on board the tug *Bullara* that saved the *Portland Bay* from disaster.

In any industrial action taken by AMOU members emergency situations are exempted from that action.

Our current industrial laws set up mechanisms to start industrial negotiations but don't set out how failed negotiations end. Laws that help workers and their employers reach quick resolution are long overdue.

The AMOU is ready to meet with Svitzer at any time to fix this mess.

15 November 2022