

## 12/2/6 Department Of Immigration & Border Protection Political Report

### Political Report

The political climate has completely changed. The incoming government has completely changed the country. As former Prime Minister Paul Keating once said " you change the government, you change the country". He's bloody right. There are new changes in every portfolio. Let's look at the changes in each portfolio and how they will impact on our members:

1. Immigration- the government has made big decisions here and has decided to increase migrations in big numbers to this country. They are concentrating on permanent migration which can put real pressures on housing, cost of living and eventually on members jobs. Currently, there are many vacancies available for marine engineers and ETO's. it is anticipated that there will be changes to the skilled occupation list. Details are not yet available.
2. Skills and training- AIMPE has been lobbying for a Director of Training in the maritime sector- that campaign started about two months ago. It is in its infancy. But it is hoped that it will gather traction in the new financial year. The government has indicated its willingness to provide funding in this sector.
3. The 12 ships- it is forecasted that the taskforce will provide its final report in June 2023. What is important here is that the 12 ships are linked to training and if that is not in place, it is hard to imagine how such a project can get off the ground. Information gathered last week in Canberra suggests that nothing will occur in the next 18 months. The government has set up a different sector in the Department of Infrastructure and Transport headed by Andrew Johnston to handle such a project. It has been elevated to a level where it must be. It is wait and see until the final report is delivered.

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4. Wind Farms- currently Star of the South is Australia's most advanced offshore wind project in Australia. It has the potential to provide 20% of Victoria's electricity needs while creating jobs for our members and the community. Other projects in NSW and Western Victoria are gaining momentum.
5. Amendments to the Fair Work Act 2009- there have been some amendments made to the Fair Work Act and there will be many others which will hopefully come through in the next round, anticipated in the latter part of this year. Such amendments are yet to be set in stone. Let us hope we can continue to influence such amendments to make the Fair Work Act fair. Currently, Minister Burke has made over all 13 new appointments to the Fair Work Commission- all from the Labor side of the fence. And the majority if not all, have union connection. The Minister has maintained that until the rebalance is finalised, the appointment will continue from that side of the fence. But he did forecast when same is rebalanced, then appointments can recommence from both side of the fence.

As the Parliament is constituted presently, AIMPE will be well advised to continue to support the Greens as we are unable to compete with the MUA and other big unions with donations to the ALP. We must continue our association with the crossbench. And our association with the Nationals and the Liberals has continued but at a lower level. It is very important that we do that. Politics is the real power in town, until we can make serious amendments to the Fair Work Act 2009. That Act as is presently stand is in the favour of the employer and is unfair. We could not have achieved the win (Svitzer discontinuing) over Svitzer without amendments to the said Act. Hopefully, soon, arbitration will become mandatory under the said Act. That will make life easier for many union officials.

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Yours Truly,

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