



# AIMPE

Australian Institute of  
Marine and Power Engineers  
HEAD OFFICE

11 January 2015

## MEDIA RELEASE

### TUG ENGINEERS STOPPAGES TO ESCALATE IN MAJOR AUSTRALIAN PORTS

The Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers (AIMPE) has given Svitzer Australia further notice that stoppages of 12 and 24 hours by AIMPE members will be extended through to Monday 18 January 2016.

(The stoppages have been authorised by a Protected Action Ballot which saw over 90% of Svitzer Engineers in favour of taking action. The ballot was conducted by the Australian Electoral Commission and had a high participation rate of 71%.)

Federal Secretary Martin Byrne stated that:

“The AIMPE has sought further meetings with the company but Svitzer has not responded to our approaches and has instead commenced the process to ballot all tug employees for a combined agreement to cover its harbour towage operations.”

“AIMPE members have endorsed an extension of stoppages to Adelaide and West Australian Ports of Fremantle and Kwinana as well as a program of 24 hour stoppages in Newcastle, Brisbane, Melbourne, Geelong and Sydney/Botany from Friday 15 January 2016.”

“Port Kembla and Whyalla have not been included in the stoppages due to consideration of the state of the local economies and steel/iron ore production.”

“As a matter of fact AIMPE negotiators are playing a key role in attempting to extend the viability of Svitzer’s Whyalla iron export operation to ensure that members and other crew have job security for at least the next 15 months.”

Mr Byrne repeated his earlier statements in the media that “AIMPE members want stability – AIMPE members hope that the company sees good sense in dealing with AIMPE for a separate agreement to cover Engineers. This has been the status quo for over 20 years and is the only effective way for Engineers to retain their professional independence. ”

Despite the escalation of stoppages, holiday makers on cruise ships and national security will continue to be exempted from the stoppages.”

**NOTE: Ship assists and movements of cruise ships and Defence related vessels will not be affected by the stoppages.**

Martin Byrne  
Federal Secretary  
0419 243 263