



AIMPE

Australian Institute of
Marine and Power Engineers
HEAD OFFICE

Hon. M. McGowan, MLA
Premier,
Western Australia.

23rd March 2020.

By email: wa-government@dpc.wa.gov.au

Dear Premier,

Border Closure announcement – request for exemption for maritime crews

The media release on 22nd March announcing the closure of the WA borders contained a number of exemptions including for flight crews.

The Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers (AIMPE) respectfully requests that the exemptions be clarified to specifically include maritime crews. AIMPE represents Marine Engineers in all States and Territories of Australia. Many of our highly qualified members work in one State or Territory and work in another State or Territory.

There is a great deal of confusion in the maritime industry about the border closure and the self-isolation requirement.

Australian Border Force has released a new notice after the Prime Minister announced the national border closure which notice specifically states that international maritime crew arriving into Australia by aircraft are permitted to proceed (including by domestic flights and then ground transfers) to proceed to join their ships. See attached notice titled Restrictions on Entry to Australia by Commercial Vessels dated 20th March 2020.

AIMPE agrees with the implementation of measures to restrict the spread of the Covid-19 virus while at the same time ensuring that critical industries such as the maritime industry are able to continue to function. It hardly makes sense that international maritime crew members could be exempt from Australia's national border closure but Australian maritime crew members could not join their Australian vessels located in Western Australia.

When the Premier of Tasmania announced that the state was closing its borders it was clear and specific in stating the marine crews are exempt from the 14 day self-isolation requirement. See copy attached of media release titled Nation Leading Border Restrictions to Protect Tasmanians from Premier Gutwein dated 19th March 2020.

AIMPE suggests that this represents a very good model to follow.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Byrne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Martin Byrne
Federal Secretary

Att. 2.