



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

19th October 2021.

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

Dear Premier,

Possible withdrawal of LNG Tanker

Further to our correspondence of 20th September last, the Nautilus Federation Australia (NFA) write to press our request for Australian maritime personnel to be treated in the same way as road and rail freight personnel have been treated by the WA authorities in relation to crossing the WA border to perform their work functions.

The members of the NFA (AIMPE and AMOU) have been notified by Trident LNG that due to the shortage of personnel and, in particular, of Marine Engineers with Steam qualifications, the company is considering temporarily withdrawing one of the ships that it operates. (Note: the four tankers operated by Trident LNG are steamships.)

There are several factors contributing to the shortage of personnel however the effective ban on personnel who reside in NSW and Victoria travelling to WA is a significant part of the problem. There are Marine Engineers employed by Trident LNG who could return to work on the ships who are at home in NSW and Victoria and unable to travel to WA because of the hard border closure. Without sufficient Marine Engineers the company cannot keep all four ships fully crewed and the company is exploring the temporary withdrawal of one ship from operations.

It is understood that applications have been lodged for these personnel to be granted exemption from current restrictions. However, the NFA seeks that Australian maritime personnel be placed in the same position as road and rail personnel under the National Freight Movement Protocol and Code and be allowed to travel to and from WA to carry out their work.

Road and rail personnel are now required to be double vaccinated and other restrictions are in place to limit contact with WA residents to minimise any risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus and the NFA does not seek any different treatment for maritime personnel.

52 Buckingham Street Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia
E: mbyrne@aimpe.asn.au and mark@amou.com.au

*NAUTILUS FEDERATION AUSTRALIA is a strategic alliance between the
Australian Maritime Officers Union and the Australian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers*

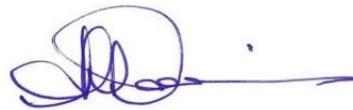
The prospect that one of the four Australian flagged LNG tankers could be withdrawn from service in the next month or two is dreadful particularly after so much effort and co-operation has been made over the last 18 months to keep the ships moving throughout the pandemic.

One of the other possible solutions that Trident has requested is that more foreign Engineers from Shell International be allowed to come into Australia to help keep the operations running without the need to withdraw a ship. It is obviously extremely unpalatable for additional overseas labour to be agreed to enter WA when Australians employed by Trident are not allowed to do so.

Yours sincerely



Martin Byrne
Federal President
AIMPE



Mark Davis
Executive Officer
AMOU

cc:

Hon R. Saffioti Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports Minister.Saffioti@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon R Cook Minister for Health Minister.Cook@dpc.wa.gov.au

Hon M. Roberts Minister for Police Minister.Roberts@dpc.wa.gov.au