



Time for Unions to 'Get Real' on the Waterfront

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) has called on maritime union leaders to 'get real' and abandon their excessive and unsustainable wage and condition claims which threaten the efficiency of Australia's supply chains.

"Every day the MUA's unwarranted action at Patrick's Container Terminals continues, Australia suffers," said Michael Kilgariff.

"The MUA's unrealistic claims are damaging the national economy to the tune of at least \$40 million a day, and it is Australian businesses and Australian families who will pay the price.

"An efficient supply chain underpins every aspect of modern life and is utterly indispensable to our home lives and our businesses.

"The flow-on effects from this industrial action and claim will continue to grow and will impact on every sector reliant on an efficient port sector to facilitate imports and exports.

"Putting at risk port supply chain efficiency is highly irresponsible when the claims underpinning them are extreme and would not pass your everyday 'pub test'," he said.

Mr Kilgariff said the economic impact of the action being waged by the MUA needed to be seen within the context of the economic significance of the logistics industry to the Australian economy.

"Not only does the logistics industry represent approximately 8.6% of GDP and adds more than \$130 billion to the Australian economy, every 1% increase in efficiency in the sector boosts GDP by approximately \$2 billion," he said.

"The union's claims, which involve massive labour cost increases, restrictions on innovation and competitiveness, would have the reverse effect and would drain industry's efforts to improve efficiency on the waterfront.

"An efficient port sector is fundamental to a strong and prosperous economy, and as a country, we simply cannot afford the actions of a small union contingent to undermine productivity on the waterfront.

"It is time for unions to 'get real' on the waterfront and accept that their claims run contrary to national competitiveness," he said.

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