

MEDIA RELEASE

Businesses Should Not Pay For Union Anniversary Party

The [Australian Logistics Council](#) (ALC) says that Australia's freight logistics companies and consumers should not pay the price for members of the Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) to reminisce about an industrial dispute that occurred two decades ago.

"If the MUA wishes to commemorate significant moments from its past, it should put together an appropriate anniversary event, instead of disrupting legitimate business activities on spurious grounds," said ALC Managing Director, Michael Kilgariff.

"The MUA's decision to stage a four day strike in Melbourne from today is clearly more about boosting its public profile than it is about legitimate workplace matters."

"Qube Ports has clearly acted reasonably over more than two-and-a-half years to negotiate with the MUA, and is in a position to offer pay rises of almost 10 per cent over four years. In response, the MUA is insisting upon the reintroduction of uneconomic rosters which are simply not sustainable in a contemporary economic environment."

"This posturing ultimately does not assist the MUA's members, let alone freight logistics operators and Australian consumers," Mr Kilgariff said.

"While the unions might be eager to "change the rules", they cannot change the basic laws of economics. When this type of pointless industrial grandstanding occurs at Australian ports, it is Australian consumers who end up suffering the consequences."

"Too often, freight logistics operators have been subjected to petty and disruptive behaviour at ports and other key freight facilities. The resulting delays in freight movement simply engender higher shipping costs, which in turn means higher consumer prices being paid by all - including those working people unions claim to represent."

"As ALC has previously [noted](#), spurious industrial action is likely to occur with increasing frequency with the proposed merger of the MUA and the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)."

"A massive, militant union exercising an industrial monopoly over the nation's supply chains poses an enormous risk to ongoing economic and employment growth – especially for an economy that relies heavily on exports and imports of manufactured products."

"ALC encourages the Federal Government to act on its election commitment to subject union mergers to a public interest test, similar in nature to competition law principles that apply to businesses," he concluded.

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