



Menu

Picket maintained despite representative order

Wednesday, December 13, 2017, 5:27pm

The picket outside the new "robo" terminal at the Port of Melbourne has continued today, despite the Victorian Supreme Court ordering yesterday that it come to an end.

The continuation of the picket at the Victorian International Container Terminals site prompted calls by multiple employer groups for police to enforce the court's orders.

A Victoria Police spokesperson told *Workplace Express* today that they were aware of an "ongoing protest" at VICT at Webb Dock.

"The safety of the Victorian community is the highest priority for Victoria Police," she said.

"Police will monitor the protest in order to maintain public safety.

"Victoria Police respects people's right to protest peacefully, but will not tolerate those who break the law."

VICT declined to comment today on whether it would go back to court to argue that the protest was continuing.

However, it said after yesterday's [court ruling](#) on the picket line that the MUA, the CFMEU and others associated with the picket were "required to cease their illegal picketing and not to approach within 100 metres of our business".

"We expect the picket to be lifted immediately and we will be taking whatever steps are available to us should the illegal and prohibited behaviours continue beyond 5pm today [Tuesday].

"VICT will continue to assess the damage that has been done to our business. We will be seeking to recoup those damages. Others will be doing the same. Any breaches of the Court's orders will also be pursued as a contempt of court."

Tents, portaloos stationed near entry points

Workplace Express visited the picket this afternoon and found it staffed – despite a 38 degree day in Melbourne – at two gates to the VICT site, complete with tents, eskies stocked with cool drinks and a portaloos.

A range of union banners are still flying near the picket this afternoon – including the MUA, AMWU, CEPU – and others such as the ANMF, ASU, CPSU and MEAA.

One of the attendees at the picket was controversial former AMWU Victorian secretary Craig Johnston, who later worked in construction.

But a spokesperson who identified himself as Pat, a retired unionist, said those on the picket lines were supporters who wanted to help out now that unions were banned from attending or organising the picket.

"All sorts of government agencies seem to spending a lot of time trying to make a link between the community assembly and unions.

"Well the fact is, we're all unionists.

"That's why we support unions.

"When unions are injuncted off a dispute and laws are used against them which do not apply to the employers, then the community will, as Australian citizens, turn up and demand our right to protest that."

The court heard claims that a truck driver had his teeth knocked out when he tried to cross the picket, but spokesperson Pat told *Workplace Express* this did not occur.

"I was here when that incident happened," he said.

"He tried to drive through a car to get in, jumped out of the cabin, wanted to take on all comers.

"No one took him on.

"We talked him down in the end and his words were, 'Well I'm walking away'.

"He got in the truck.

"We applauded him and he waved to us on the way out.

"All this stereotyping of unions, mate, we're over it.

"The largest part of the capital investment in this country is our superannuation money. . . to see the organisations that represent us treated in such an unfair and undemocratic way, we're over it, mate, and they can do their worst."

The MUA and the CFMEU have published the court orders, which are also pinned to the fence at the VICT site.

The Victorian Transport Association today implored the CFMEU and MUA to comply with the orders for their "illegal picket at the site to be disbanded".

"Despite the Court order, it is our understanding that the picket is still in place and trucks are not able to access containers at VICT," said VTA chief executive Peter Anderson.

"This arrogant defiance of a Supreme Court order is continuing to disrupt activities at the terminal, as well as trade and commerce throughout the state during the busiest time of the year for small businesses that are being denied access to their goods.

"The order from the court was effectively a signal that the Victorian people should not be held to ransom by illegal picketing that has shut down the Port of Melbourne's third stevedore, and it is stunning that the unions are showing such contempt."

Anderson said all parties should use the industrial relations system and Fair Work Commission to have workplace disputes resolved.

Logistics council calls for police to remove picket if orders don't work

The Australian Logistics Council's managing director, Michael Kilgarif, said the courts had now made two orders against the illegal picket and protestors had had ample opportunity to comply with those orders.

"If they will not do so, police should act to enforce the law and remove the picket as a matter of urgency."

"If a group of protesters engaged in illegal conduct by invading the MCG pitch during the Boxing Day Test, or blockaded the Government offices in Treasury Place preventing the transaction of government business, police action to remove them would follow swiftly – and rightly so."

"Freight logistics businesses operating at Webb Dock are entitled to exactly the same protection."

The *Weekly Times* has reported that more than 50,000 litres of fresh Victorian milk belonging to [Kyvalley Dairy](#) was "curdling" in containers left stranded by the dispute, along with Australian meat, fruit and other dairy exports.

"We've lost the sale, now we need to get it off the wharf before it turns to cheese," Kyvalley Dairy's Wayne Mulcahy told the newspaper.



 **Kieran Bennett**
@KieranBennett

Come down to [#WebbDock](#) [#CommunityAssembly](#) for the best solidarity breakfast in town! [#ausunions](#)

7:10 AM - Dec 13, 2017

1 1 3

[HOME](#) [SEARCH](#) [PRINT](#) [TOP](#)

LATEST JOBS

Employment Law – Associate / Senior Associate
Strategic Campaigner
Workplace Relations Advisor
Senior Workplace Relations Consultant
Campaign Head

[About us](#) · [Contact us](#) · [Terms of use](#) · [Privacy policy](#) · [FAQs](#) · [RSS / XML Feed](#)

Specialist News

Copyright © Workplace Express 2017. Workplace Express is a Specialist News Pty Ltd publication - ABN 33 093 580 413.

