



MEDIA ALERT: Tuesday 12 February, 2019

Parliament House: Sacked BHP seafarers lead rally to save Australian shipping

Sacked seafarers will lead a rally on the lawn of Parliament House, demanding urgent action by the Morrison Government to save what remains of the Australian shipping industry.

In early January, nearly 80 crew members from the last remaining Australian bulk carriers, the MV Mariloula and MV Lowlands Brilliance, were informed by email that they no longer had a job after BHP cancelled their contract to carry iron ore from Port Hedland to BlueScope's steelworks in Port Kembla.

These vessels, operated by skilled Australian seafarers, were replaced by ships registered in international tax havens and crewed by highly-exploited foreign visa workers.

Sacked crew members, who are currently in Canberra meeting MPs and Senators to highlight their personal plight and outline the urgent actions needed to protect and strengthen the Australian shipping industry, will address the rally, sharing their personal experience of being sacked while at sea.

They will be joined by union supporters, along with Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development Anthony Albanese, ACTU President Michele O'Neil, and Maritime Union of Australia National Secretary Paddy Crumlin.

The sacked seafarers will also highlight the fact that the Morrison Government has been complicit in these job losses by issuing temporary licences to foreign vessels contracted to carry out the coastal trade previously conducted by these Australian workers.

Sacked seafarers lead rally to save Australian shipping

When: 10am, Wednesday 13 February 2019

Where: Parliament House, Canberra

Who: Sacked BHP seafarers, Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development Anthony Albanese, ACTU President Michele O'Neil, and Maritime Union of Australia National Secretary Paddy Crumlin.

Media contact: Tim Vollmer 0404 273 313