



International Transport Workers' Federation-Australia

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Queensland Parliamentary

"Inquiry into a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry."

Submission by the International Transport Worker's Federation

The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) is an international federation of transport workers' trade unions.

Any independent trade union with members in the transport industry is eligible for ITF membership. Around 670 unions representing over 19 million transport workers from some 147 countries are members of the ITF. It is one of several global unions federation unions allied with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

The ITF's headquarters is in London and it has offices in Amman, Brussels, Nairobi, New Delhi, Ouagadougou, Rio de Janeiro, Singapore, and Tokyo.

The Maritime Union of Australia is the major maritime affiliate in Australia.

Through the ITF Flag of Convenience campaign, Australia has a robust, active, and effective inspectorate coordinated by Dean Summers. The FOC campaign engages more than 130 full time inspectors around the world working in concert to protect the rights, dignity and working conditions for all seafarers.

Our submission and subsequent involvement into the federal Senate enquiry "Increasing use of so-called Flag of Convenience shipping in Australia" holds a valuable insight into the corrosive and undermining nature of the FOC registration system.

When considering intrastate shipping anywhere in Australia it is inevitable that the alternative to Australian national flag shipping is ships registered in FOC tax havens.

The most obvious advantages for owners to register in FOC states is to avoid all taxation liabilities, to source the cheapest international labour markets and hide the owners/ operators' identities. ITF Australia has worked closely with the MUA to compile their submission. Given our vast experience and intimate understanding of this industry we are available to appear separately before the inquiry. We believe we can offer a unique perspective to the FOC system.

The ITF along with the MUA identify three key areas of risk to Australia from the FOC shipping. These are economic, environmental, and national security.

The ITF wishes the Transport and Public works committee success in your inquiry and is very happy to advise and support in any way.