

On behalf of the Alexander Spirit Crew,

First of all we would like to thank the men, women and children that have attended the community protest here in Devonport - holding fast through some cold and wet nights but never wavering the whole time we have been here. We would also like to thank everyone from around the country who has sent us e-mails, personal messages and phone calls of support. All of your efforts have helped us immensely and boosted morale on board.

This has been a very traumatic time for all involved. People have had to leave the ship due to the stress of getting sacked and had panic attacks because we don't know what's next. Unemployment is high everywhere and there are hundreds of seafarers around the country looking for work. It's tough to find another job but rather than support us, the Abbott Government has abandoned us.

As Australian workers we have all had enough on what this Abbott Liberal Government is blatantly doing to its people. As seafarers we have seen it first hand and it is a trend that is getting way too common.

The crew of the Alexander Spirit is the 5th Australian-crewed product tanker in 12 months to be told we are no longer needed as part of the secure chain of supply for Australia's fuel requirements. Surely this alone is enough to make people sit up and take notice, why is this happening?

Australia currently relies on 91% of our fuel being imported with not a single Australian Seafarer employed in the Importing of our fuel. Including the Alexander Spirit, we have just 2 Australian-crewed coastal tankers operating to supply fuels on our domestic market, the rest of our fuel is transported by foreign vessels with foreign crews often these crews are underpaid and exploited working for as little as \$2 per hour living in appalling conditions. When the Alexander Spirit goes, Tasmania will be entirely dependent on international ships with foreign crews supplying its petrol. The rest of Australia will be in the same position within a few years unless something is done.

We also stand here today for every Australian worker who has ever been made redundant, for every Australian worker who has had their job sent off shore, for every Australian worker looking down the barrel at unemployment - all this while greed-driven multinational companies like Caltex are here raking in

millions of dollars in profit while avoiding employing Australian workers, sending our jobs overseas and employing the cheapest labour they can.

How would you feel working in your office job, in the local supermarket, or factory or hospital or wherever you may work to have the boss come and tell you that you are no longer needed your job no longer exists, even though you have a contract until 2019, then to find out the next day your job is still there still being done but now in your place is someone else someone doing your job for a fraction of the price.

We are just normal people we have families we have mortgages we have commitments we want a fair go in our own country and the ability to continue to do the job we are trained in and paid to do.

We are here not only for ourselves but for future generations of Australian seafarers and for our right as Australians to be employed in our own country. A stand needs to be taken for our fuel security and our national security.

This crew feels very strongly about the importance of companies like Caltex keeping Australians employed in their shipping task both domestically and when it comes to importing fuel for our nation.

We are highly trained highly skilled seafarers who put Australia's national security, fuel security and environment first.

We will continue to fight for our right and for all Australian workers' rights to work in our own country.

Again, we thank the community – But don't stop here. If you want to do something, if you want a future for your kids, if you want to save Australia's future– we need to change this government, because they are not choosing us.

Street King Posidon Sydney  
RAYNOLAN IR  
Varrro Deacon IR G U. Year  
ANDY POYNTER IR A. Phe  
S. McAWGILL C/E.  
DND ZE

MMA x3 male.

Thanks for the support & well wishes - BRENT ROBINSON 1/ENGINEER  
BRENT ROBINSON 2/ENGINEER