

Crew statement  
DISBELIEF!

We the MUA crew of the MV Portland are in shock and total disbelief of the actions taken by both Alcoa and the Turnbull/Truss Government!

The MV Portland has operated for 28 successful years between Portland VIC and Kwinana/Bunbury WA, in that time the Portland has trained a number of Deck and Engineering Officers as well as countless TIR/PIR Trainees to become professional seafaring IR's as it was the first purpose build ship for the MIDC concept, Which de manned vessels to keep trade routes open so Australian seafaring could be cost effective for the longevity of our industry.

After 28 profitable years for Alcoa we find ourselves unemployed as they pull the rug out from under us, as greed for further profit takes hold. We cannot understand why the government is allowing multinational companies like Alcoa to remove Australian seafarers off the blue highway to be replaced by cheaper, unskilled foreign labour.

Alcoa receive Government subsidies from the Victorian state government to operate their smelter in Portland putting more money in their pockets, on top of this Alcoa has also signed a deal with Portland's Port Authority to continue operating for at least another 10 year but they don't want Australian seafarers to be part of that future!

Now that we have been given notice we are battling each day with the hardships of families, uncertain futures and financial commitments. After 28 years of operating, the crews moral on board is at an all time low with each crew member dealing with not only their own personal hardships and struggles but also worry for the Australian seafaring future in this industry.

As a crew we cannot understand why the government/Alcoa is hell bent on removing Australians from Australian jobs on the Australian coast. Only to be replaced by foreign labour who take their wages offshore. As Australians our wages stay in Australia, we pay taxes and feed our families along with the economy.

We as the crew of the MV Portland believe that an Australian dug cargo moving between Australian ports should be transported by an Australian manned vessel! We need to save Australian jobs Australia!

Crew MV Portland  
Delegate Dale Eaton