



# Maritime Union of New Zealand

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**Paddy Crumlin**  
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**Cc: David Cockcroft, Shannon O'Keeffe, Frank Leys, Steve Cotton, Mick Doleman, Ian Bray, Warren Smith, Paul McAleer**

8 August 2012

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Maritime Union of New Zealand is outraged to learn that, after nearly two years of negotiations in your terminal without mentioning the issue, Patricks have now informed you that they propose to automate Port Botany and, as a result, terminate over 200 dockers' jobs.

We are sending our solidarity and support to you during your imminent fight against these job cuts and against Patrick's apparent attempt to cut out the union from workplace decisions.

Dockers and their unions will all be challenged by technological developments in the stevedoring industry.

Indeed, we have discussed this at ITF international forums on many occasions. Our position is clear, dockers' unions should be part of any discussions around changes to working practices.

In this case, MUNZ is appalled to note the apparent underhanded way that Patricks have chosen to push forward the agenda of automation in Botany Bay that will almost halve the workforce.

After the despicable way that Patrick's behaved in 1998, leading to a major dispute in the dock, we can only surmise that this is another thinly-veiled attack on unionised labour in the Australian port industry.

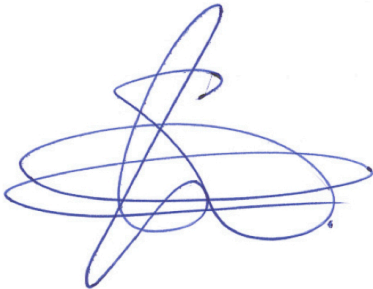
We know that your strength won the dispute in 1998 and we know that you can do it again, with the support of dockers around the world.

This letter is to let you know that we stand shoulder to shoulder with you in your fight to preserve the rights of dockers and their unions to protect decent jobs, pay and health and safety standards as well as trade union rights that we have all fought so long and hard to preserve.

The outstanding support received by the Maritime Union of New Zealand from the MUA in our recent dispute at the Ports of Auckland and previous disputes is not forgotten.

We hope MUNZ can return the same level of support to your members at Port Botany in their struggle now.

In unity

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke, likely representing the name Joe Fleetwood.

**Joe Fleetwood**  
General Secretary  
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