



MEDIA RELEASE

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Unions defy Supreme Court order that should see VICT operations resume

The Victorian Transport Association, representing freight operators that for two weeks have been blockaded from collecting and delivering containers at Victoria International Container Terminal (VICT), is imploring the CFMEU and MUA to comply with Supreme Court orders issued yesterday for their illegal picket at the site to be disbanded.

On Tuesday, the Court issued orders against the MUA and the CFMEU which prevents them approaching within 100 metres of VICT's business. It also issued orders requiring the unions not to restrict access to VICT by either trucks or people, and requiring them not to encourage others to attend the site to do the same.

"Despite the Court order, it is our understanding that the picket is still in place and trucks are not able to access containers at VICT," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"This arrogant defiance of a Supreme Court order is continuing to disrupt activities at the terminal, as well as trade and commerce throughout the state during the busiest time of the year for small businesses that are being denied access to their goods.

"The order from the Court was effectively a signal that the Victorian people should not be held to ransom by illegal picketing that has shut down the Port of Melbourne's third stevedore, and it is stunning that the unions are showing such contempt.

"Breaking the law, as the CFMEU and MUA are doing by defying these orders, is irresponsible, immature and selfish. It's time they grew up and stop holding VICT and Victorians to ransom through these actions."

Mr Anderson emphasised there is a prescribed system in place for matters like the one that led to this illegal picketing to be dealt with.

"To prevent further disruptions at the Port of Melbourne and embarrassment for Victoria as a place to do business, we urge all parties to use the industrial relations system and Fair Work Commission to have workplace disputes resolved."

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