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For Immediate Release

Shipowners Support DP World in Waterfront Dispute

"Members of Shipping Australia Limited fully support the action of DP World in locking out their workforce at their container terminal in Adelaide today for 24 hours" Llew Russell, CEO of SAL said today.

"Despite every effort by the company to negotiate a settlement over 4 days in December with the Maritime Union of Australia, they have faced continuing industrial action at their container terminals since Christmas eve. The lockout followed a stoppage at the terminal over the last two days.

"It is extraordinary that the union will not accept any offsets in productivity despite adding \$60 million in operating costs over the life of the proposed 3 year national enterprise agreement if the union demands were agreed." He said.

Mr Russell pointed out that both container shipping operators and many Australian exporters were struggling with excess global competition but the Union will not have a bar of facilitating our international competitiveness.

"How can it be considered by Fair Work Australia that the Union is bargaining in good faith when they will not accept significant productivity offsets?"

"The timing of the Unions industrial action was clearly aimed at causing maximum damage at a time of a relatively high volume of container imports coming into Australia.

"This is providing potential ammunition for those opposed to Australia's industrial relations system and will assist those wanting significant change as a result of the current review of the Fair Work Act.

"When the Union takes protected industrial action first and enters into serious negotiations subsequently means there are fundamental flaws in the current system." Mr Russell said.

"We would urge the Union to cease industrial action immediately and return to the negotiating table to bargain in good faith including discussion on productivity offsets.

Editor's note:

For additional information please contact Llew Russell, CEO on 0414 958 247.