



C.H. ROBINSON

Client Advisory

July 15, 2021

Svitzer Australia – Protected Industrial Action

Dear Valued Customer,

Vessels carrying critical supplies into Australia will be blocked from entering Australian ports over the next two weeks as talks take place between Maritime Union of Australia (MUA) and a major tug boat operator Svitzer which is owned by one of the world's largest vessel operators and shipping lines; Maersk.

The MUA has announced a series of 24-hour protected strikes at major ports against the tugboat operator. Tug operators play a critical role in ensuring the safe passage of container vessels into our ports. Its protest centres around its bid to change employment conditions to ensure it remains competitive in a challenging and changing market.

Numerous strikes have already occurred within various ports in Victoria and Western Australia and will continue rolling through to New South Wales and South Australia. These strikes promise to impact shipping movements across the country with continued disruption to vessel arrivals effecting both import availability and export receival windows.

The strikes came on top of rising congestion and weeks of [stoppages at Patrick Stevedores](#), which has led to a significant decrease in containers moving through the inland rail network. At worst this continued action could see shipping lines taking matters into their own hands by skipping certain ports in Australia to avoid the disruption causing delays to the world's supply chain.

Our teams will continue to monitor the situation, provide updates, and manage through the associated challenges to the best of our ability, minimising the impact to your supply chain.

Thank you for being our Valued Customer. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the notice held within, please contact your Key Account Manager or a C.H. Robinson representative.

Sincerely,
C.H. Robinson.