



**Mining &
Energy
Union**
QUEENSLAND

DON'T LET THE DUST SETTLE



MINING & ENERGY UNION QUEENSLAND
GLOBAL DUST CONFERENCE 2026

AGENDA

MONDAY		16.02.2026
2:00 PM	DELEGATE CHECK IN AND REGISTRATION Mudjimba Room	
5:40 PM	WELCOME TO COUNTRY Putt Putt Lawn	
6:00 PM	HALL PAYNE LAWYERS WELCOME EVENT Aqua Lounge	

AGENDA

TUESDAY		17.02.2026
8:30 AM	CONFERENCE WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS Mitch Hughes <i>Mining and Energy Union QLD District President</i>	
8:45 AM	GUEST SPEAKER Senator the Hon Anthony Chisholm <i>Assistant Minister for Regional Development</i> <i>Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry</i> <i>Assistant Minister for Resources</i>	
9:00 AM	VIDEO Reflecting upon ten years since the reindentification of coal workers pneumoconiosis.	
9:05 AM	INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES FROM 2024 CONFERENCE Mitch Hughes <i>Mining and Energy Union QLD District President</i> Morning Tea - 9.40am	
10:10 AM	PANEL: REDISCOVERY OF BLACK LUNG IN QLD Stephen Smyth Heidi Roberts Dr Anthony Lynham Dr Bob Cohen Fritz Djukic	
11:10 AM	BACKGROUND ON REDISCOVERY OF BLACK LUNG IN QLD Stephen Smyth <i>MEU General Vice President</i> Lunch - 11.30am	

AGENDA

TUESDAY		17.02.2026
12:30 PM	STATUS REPORT - WHERE ARE WE WITH PREVENTION OF DUST DISEASES IN QLD? Stephen Smyth <i>MEU General Vice President</i> Stephen Watts <i>MEU QLD Industry Safety & Health Representative</i>	
1:30 PM	STATUS REPORT - WHERE ARE WE WITH PREVENTION OF DUST DISEASES IN NSW? Stephen Barrett <i>MEU District Check Inspector South</i> Tony Watson <i>MEU District Check Inspector North</i>	
2:30 PM	STATUS REPORT - WHERE ARE WE WITH PREVENTION OF DUST DISEASES IN AMERICA? Josh Roberts <i>UMWA - Director of Occupational Health and Safety</i> Juan Zuniga <i>USW Health and Safety Specialist</i> Afternoon Tea -3.30pm	
4:00 PM	WORKERS REPRESENTATIVE HISTORICAL PROJECT Professor Michael Quinlan <i>School of Management and Governance and Director of the Industrial Relations Research Centre, UNSW</i>	
4:45 PM	A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS Coverforce Team Super	

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY		18.02.2026
8:30 AM	OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASE: IT'S NOT JUST SMOKING Dr Bob Cohen <i>Professor of Medicine and Director of the Occupational Lung Disease Program, Northwestern University, and Clinical Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Illinois School of Public Health</i>	
9:30 AM	BLACK LUNG: ONE DIAGNOSIS, MANY DISEASES Dr Cecile Rose <i>Professor of Pulmonary and Occupational Medicine, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at the Colorado School of Public Health</i> Morning Tea - 10.30am	
11:00 AM	TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR BLACK LUNG: LIMITED RELIEF, ONGOING STRUGGLE Dr Leonard Go <i>Assistant Director of the Mining Education and Research (MinER) Center and a Research Associate Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health</i> Lunch - 12.00pm	
1:00 PM	DUST CONTROL & MONITORING, HEALTH SCREENING WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN Fritz Djukic <i>Resources Safety and Health Queensland</i>	

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY	18.02.2026
2:00 PM	<p>PANEL: PRACTICAL REALITIES OF GETTING DUST MONITORED AND CONTROLLED, AND WORKER'S EXAMINED WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS</p> <p>Stephen Watts Stephen Barrett Tony Watson Josh Roberts</p> <p>Afternoon Tea - 3.00pm</p>
3:30 PM	<p>WORKERS COMPENSATION SESSION</p> <p>Linda McEnery <i>Hall Payne Lawyers</i> Craig Worsley <i>Taylors Solicitors</i></p>
4:00 PM	<p>A WORD FROM OUR SPONSORS</p> <p>Hall Payne Lawyers Taylors Solicitors</p>
6:30 PM	<p>HALL PAYNE LAWYERS FORMAL DINNER</p> <p>Mudjimba Room</p>

AGENDA

THURSDAY	19.02.2026
7:15 AM	UNITY BANK BREAKFAST & A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR Unity Bank Mudjimba Room
8:40 AM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - ALBANIA Gezim Kalaja <i>President</i> SPMSH Arjola Alika <i>Vice President</i> BSPSH <i>Independent Trade Union of Miners of Albania</i>
9:10 AM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - BOTSWANA Mbiganyi Gaekgotswe <i>General Secretary</i> <i>Botswana Mineworkers Union</i>
9:40 AM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - MONGOLIA Dolger Duinaakhuu <i>President</i> <i>Mongolian Energy, Geology and Mining Trade Union</i> Morning Tea - 10.10am
10:40 AM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - INDIA Akhter Jawed <i>Deputy General Secretary</i> <i>Koyla Mazdoor Sabha</i>
11:10 AM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - POLAND Kamil Zaluksi <i>Deputy President</i> <i>Porozumienie Związków Zawodowych "KADRA"</i>

AGENDA

THURSDAY	19.02.2026
11:40 AM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - SOUTH AFRICA Mpho Phakedi <i>General Secretary</i> <i>National Union of Mineworkers</i>
12:10 PM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - NORTH AMERICA Josh Roberts <i>UMWA - Director of Occupational Health and Safety</i> Juan Zuniga <i>USW Health and Safety Specialist</i> Lunch - 12.40pm
1:15 PM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - INDONESIA Usamah Acmed <i>Chemical, Energy and Mines Workers Union</i>
1:45 PM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - GHANA Abdul-Moomin Gbana <i>General Secretary</i> <i>Ghana Mine Workers Union</i>
2:15 PM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - ZIMBABWE Justice Chinhema <i>General Secretary</i> <i>Zimbabwe Diamond & Allied Minerals Workers Union –</i>
2:45 PM	INTERNATIONAL REPORT - ZAMBIA Joseph Chewe <i>President</i> <i>Mineworkers Union of Zambia</i> Afternoon Tea - 3:15pm

AGENDA

THURSDAY

19.02.2026

3:45 PM

POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES - IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVELY MAINTAINING GAINS AND KEEPING PRESSURE ON

Mitch Hughes
Mining and Energy Union QLD District President
Josh Roberts
UMWA - Director of Occupational Health and Safety

4:45 PM

OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

Stephen Smyth
MEU General Vice President
Dr Bob Cohen
Professor of Medicine and Director of the Occupational Lung Disease Program, Northwestern University, and Clinical Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Illinois School of Public Health

5.15 PM

CLOSE AND THANKS

Mitch Hughes
Mining and Energy Union QLD District President