

MEMBER UPDATE

BHP is claiming a 'Coal Crisis' in their fight against royalties - here's what's really going on

Workers across Queensland's coal industry will be alarmed to see headlines today about BHP's 750 job cuts and a 'coal crisis'.

Here are the facts:

- BHP's announced 750 job cuts are predominantly corporate and support jobs across the whole Queensland business, including rail, ports and coal – with most affected workers already informed and most affected roles based in their Brisbane office. We understand this process has been ongoing for months.
- Saraji South will be put into care and maintenance in November.
- There are 60 OS Production and 12 BMA positions affected by the Saraji South announcement. BHP has committed to working with us towards redeploying these roles to Saraji and other operations where possible, as required by the relevant Workplace Agreements and as a part of the consultation process.

Saraji South workers were shocked to receive news of the mine closing early this morning after night shift. We will support our members at Saraji South and have called on BHP to begin consultations immediately. **If you are called to any meetings with the company about this announcement, take your Union representative.**

It is disappointing to see BHP move to close Saraji South as soon as coal prices have fallen from record highs back to more normal levels. However, they have form in turning this mine – formally called Norwich Park – on and off to chase high coal prices, with no regard for the impact on workers or the community. It was previously put into care and maintenance in 2012 through to 2020.

We believe it is disingenuous for BHP to blame Queensland's royalties regime. The new rates only kick in when prices are very high. Even with the higher royalty rates, BHP profited immensely from the coal price spike of 2022-2023, which saw coking coal spot prices peak at over \$900 a tonne. BHP has been pursuing a divestment strategy in Queensland coal since before the new royalty rates were introduced in 2022.

Our high-quality coal belongs to all Queenslanders, not to BHP. If BHP want to focus on other parts of their business, they should get out of the way and let someone else operate these great central Queensland mines. It is shameful of BHP to spread alarm across the Queensland coal fields in this way.

I will be in Dysart on Sunday afternoon and all through Monday. The Saraji Lodge is also holding a monthly meeting on Monday night. We encourage all members to attend.

Mitch Hughes,
MEU QLD District President

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