

Common Cause.

October 2025



TRAGEDY STRIKES IN COBAR

We are devastated by the tragedy at Endeavor silver and lead mine at Cobar this week, killing two mine workers and injuring another.

Our NSW Mine Workers Alliance organisers are on the ground supporting members and workmates.

The tragedy was caused by an uncontrolled explosion, connected to the use of explosives in the underground workings.

CHANGE AT THE TOP

Our General President Tony Maher has today announced his retirement in December after 27 years leading our union. Tony leaves the MEU as a strong and growing independent union, and we think him for his incredible service.

Tony handed in his resignation letter at Central Council, who acknowledged his achievements in establishing the MEU as an independent union, driving Same Job Same Pay laws and steering the union through countless major disputes.



FIND OUT MORE



STRIKE ACTION AT RIX'S CREEK

MEU members at Rix's Creek are standing strong as they come to the end of their fifth week on strike in the Hunter. The Rix's Creek lodge have copped real wage cuts for the past five years, while the mines' owners – Bloomfield Group - continue to make massive profits. Bloomfield have responded by putting an agreement (worse than what was rejected before the strike action was taken) to a vote. The ballot resulted in a 92.6% rejection.



AGL EXECES TOLD THEY MUST SUPPORT JOBS

MEU representatives attended AGL's AGM in Sydney in early October, asking the board about their commitment to jobs in regions affected by power station closures. Victorian District President Andy Smith asked about obligations to the Latrobe Valley community and Loy Yang power station workers - saying the company has a moral obligation to support future jobs.



TAHMOOR MUST BE SOLD TO RESTORE JOBS

Hundreds of workers at Tahmoor Colliery stopped getting paid on Friday, sparking calls for billionaire owner Sanjeev Gupta to sell the idle mine or face Government intervention. Contractor RStar - who employ over half of the workforce - have announced they can no longer float Gupta-owned SIMEC millions to cover wages when their invoices are not being paid.

If Gupta won't sell to an operator who will restart the mine, the MEU is urging the NSW Government to step in and revoke the lease or force administration.

RStar MEU Delegate Mark Bryant (pictured with his daughter Annie) said it was stressful not knowing when pay would resume.

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NEW ONLINE SAFETY HUB LAUNCHED

Your new home for everything mine safety, the MEU Safety Hub has just launched on our website. Find safety news and detailed information and resources on key safety challenges for mining and energy workers. The safety hub will be updated regularly. meu.org.au/campaign/safety-hub/

**VISIT THE
SAFETY HUB**



QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

This month our Queensland District hosted a fantastic 3-day women's conference to inspire, engage and educate women members from across the state (and a few from around the country too!)

Delegates discussed organising, safety, legal developments and well-being; and had plenty of fun as well.



HVO SHOULD BE BACKED

The MEU is urging state and federal decision-makers to back Glencore's amended extension proposal for its Hunter Valley Operations coal mine complex in NSW. Glencore's application seeks to extend operations at HVO North and South through to 2045 and 2042 respectively, supporting over 1,500 well-paid jobs in the Hunter region.

The MEU has made a submission to the NSW Department of Planning, arguing that Glencore has responded to government and community concerns about environmental protection and the project shows how mining can continue to operate sustainably.



NZEA VISITS LITHGOW

Professor Roy Green and the Net Zero Economy Authority review team visited our members in Lithgow this month to hear about how the energy transition might affect the town.

Lithgow is heavily reliant on coal mining and energy jobs and facing economic decline from previous closures. South Western District VP Mark Jenkins and ISHR Todd Jones shared their deep local knowledge on a tour of existing and potential industrial sites.



THE MEU PODCAST WITH INDUSTRY MINISTER TIM AYRES

Industry Minister Tim Ayres talks to the MEU Podcast about the success Collie has had in transforming itself, and the role of the NZEA in supporting regional industries across the country.

**LISTEN TO THE MEU PODCAST
HERE:**

