

Common Cause.

March 2026

NEW GENERAL SECRETARY ELECTED

Glenn “Bull” Power has been elected as the new General Secretary of the Mining and Energy Union, with a resounding win in the recent national ballot.

Glenn brings more than three decades of experience representing mining and energy workers to the role.

Glenn, who is currently serving as Queensland District Secretary, has a strong record of negotiating agreements, resolving disputes and delivering strong governance outcomes for members across Queensland and nationally.

“I am honoured to have been elected and I’m committed to providing stable, strong leadership,” he said.

Glenn will begin in the new role in April, joining General President Grahame Kelly and General Vice President Stephen Smyth in the national leadership team.

Congratulations also go to Central Councillor Dan Hopkins, who has been elected as Vice President of the South Western District.



Workers at Myuna Colliery now have certainty after a strong campaign by workers and the community secured a new three-year coal supply agreement with Eraring. Well done!

YALLOURN WORKERS TAKE JOBS FIGHT TO CANBERRA

MEU members from Yallourn mine and power station travelled to Canberra this week to make a strong case for new industry in the Latrobe Valley.

With Yallourn facing closure in just over two years, multiple potential projects have failed to get off the ground due to lack of approvals or support.

Thanks to Simon and Mark from the mine and Jak and Russell from the power station for making a strong case to MPs including Industry Minister Tim Ayres.



UNCERTAINTY AT BELL BAY AND TAHMOOR



MEU members in Tasmania and the Illawarra are feeling the pain of Sanjeev Gupta's collapsing business empire.

Bell Bay manganese smelter in Tasmania has entered administration after 12 months of care and maintenance, while Tahmoor Colliery has been placed into liquidation.

Tahmoor workers faced a difficult choice between redundancy and unpaid leave in the hopes of returning to work.

The MEU is advocating for the quick sale of both assets, with the continued employment of their skilled and experienced workers.

MEU FIGHTING TO CLOSE NEW LOOPHOLES

The union has made detailed submissions to federal reviews of Same Job Same Pay laws and the National Employment Standards, pushing to close new loopholes and strengthen minimum rights for mining workers.

These processes are about making sure recent gains hold up in practice and that the safety net reflects the realities of shiftwork, remote work and family life in our industry.



READ OUR SUBMISSIONS

MEU MEMBERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR SICK KIDS

Room 12 at Newcastle's Ronald McDonald House has had a magnificent makeover thanks to the generosity of our Hunter Valley United Lodge and local businesses who contributed labour and discounted materials.

Like many other Lodges in the Northern District, the Hunter Valley United Lodge has sponsored Room 12 at Ronald McDonald House since 2023. Last year the Lodge voted to upgrade the bathroom, which was in dire need of repair.

Lodge Maintenance VP Nick McDonald stepped up to manage the project, sourcing and organising the trades in a tight timeframe to minimise the time the room was out of use for families supporting their sick loved ones.

The Lodge also does an annual Christmas cook-up, providing a home-cooked dinner and dessert to families going through some of the most gruelling times of their lives.

