

Common Cause.

April 2026

BELL BAY JOBS REPRIEVE

A joint union campaign has won a government lifeline for the Bell Bay Manganese smelter in Tasmania, but over two hundred jobs still hang in the balance. This week, Industry Minister Tim Ayres and Premier Jeremy Rockliff announced a \$3 million package to cover wages and support the facility for three weeks while administrators seek a new owner.

Solidarity to the MEU Bell Bay members who are fighting to secure more support and save jobs.



HIGH COURT WIN LOCKS IN SAME JOB SAME PAY

The High Court of Australia has refused BHP's application for special leave to appeal a landmark same job, same pay ruling covering its Operations Services workforce in Queensland.

The decision means BHP has no further legal avenues to overturn earlier decisions by the Fair Work Commission and Federal Court.

BHP OS workers in Queensland no longer need to worry about their pay rises of \$20,000 to \$30,000, which were won last year, being clawed back by BHP.



MANGOOLA SAYS NO TO SHIFTY CUTS

Workers at Glencore's Mangoola coal mine in NSW have overwhelmingly voted no to a proposed EA that would have cut contractor pay by up to \$36,000 a year and embedded a lower-paid workforce on site.

The 93% no vote shows workers will not accept a deal that undermines hard fought Same Job Same Pay protections or drives down standards across the industry. We will keep fighting new employer strategies to undermine Same Job Same Pay laws.



PIKE RIVER MOVIE A GRIM REMINDER ON SAFETY



A new movie dramatising the events around the 2010 Pike River disaster is opening in across Australia in May. The movie is a devastating account of the tragedy that cost 29 miners their lives – and the on-going fight of families for justice and accountability. The MEU is hosting Pike River family members for a national tour and special preview screening events in NSW and Queensland.

**FIND OUT MORE AND
BOOK YOUR TICKETS:
[WWW.MEU.ORG.AU/
PIKERIVER](http://WWW.MEU.ORG.AU/PIKERIVER)**

PREMIER JOB CUTS A BLOW TO COLLIE

Over 100 coal miners face losing their jobs at Collie's Premier Coal, with the company announcing it will cut its labour hire workforce. The job cuts highlight the urgent need to turn state and federal transition commitments into real new jobs on the ground. With job cuts biting sooner than expected in Collie, the MEU will be supporting affected workers and fighting for the best possible outcomes.



SCHOLARSHIPS HELPING NEXT GENERATION

The 2026 Mine Workers Trust scholarship winners have been announced, supporting 20 MEU family members with \$7000 to support their studies.

For Gemma Starcic, a second-year paramedicine student, the scholarship will assist her to complete three unpaid emergency placements across NSW, allowing her to focus on building her skills as a future paramedic. Gemma's dad Dennis is a MEU member at Appin West mine.

Well done to Gemma and all of this year's scholarship recipients.



**SEE THE FULL LIST OF WINNERS AT
MEU.ORG.AU**