

Common Cause.

July 2026

FATALITY ROCKS QUEENSLAND INDUSTRY

We are deeply saddened to report another life lost in the coal industry, following an early morning collision between a ute and a haul truck at Peak Downs mine in Central Queensland last Friday.

Our thoughts are with the friends and family of the deceased, MEU member Andreas 'Andrew' Loizou, as well as another worker seriously injured in the collision, and all first responders and workers on site.

MEU ISHRs were quickly on scene to conduct investigations, and our officials were in the area to offer support to those affected. A minute's silence was held at the Moranbah Memorial Wall on Friday afternoon. As an MEU member, Andrew's family will receive the mortality benefit to support them through this difficult time.



**READ RSHQ'S
SAFETY NOTICE:**



PEABODY BACKS DOWN ON THIRD LOCKOUT

Thanks to an urgent legal challenge by the MEU, Peabody has abandoned its third attempted lockout of Wambo CHPP – going as far as to agree to pay workers for their time locked out. The MEU challenged the latest lockout on the basis that the company had issued the notice a full two weeks after the last worker industrial action, with none occurring at the time of the lockout.

With Peabody backing down on the latest lockout, the MEU will continue to pursue a fair outcome and resist the company's attempts to force members into accepting an unfair deal.

REMEMBERING MOURA NO 4

On 16 July, the Moura community, MEU and industry representatives came together to recognise the 40th anniversary of the disaster at Moura no. 4 – the second in a string of explosions which form one of the most tragic chapters in modern mining history. At 11.05 a minutes' silence was observed to honour the 12 lives lost as an explosion tore through the underground mine.

The disasters at Moura have left scars on our industry that will never fully heal, but through events like this memorial service, we can come together and share our grief.



WATCH A VIDEO ON THE MOURA NO 4 DISASTER:



SUPPORTING JOBS AT HVO



The MEU spoke out strongly in support of the Hunter Valley Operations coal mine at public hearings of the NSW Independent Planning Commission, which is deciding on whether to approve extending the mine to 2045.

Hunter Valley United Lodge President Rebecca McDonald said HVO was a safe, unionised mine that provides great jobs to support families like hers.

District President Robin Williams said the approval of the extension would provide important certainty for workers, families and businesses at a time of change in the region. The project has had strong support from workers and locals; and premier Chris Minns has backed the extension, calling it 'important for the state' and 'an integral part of our economy'.

FAREWELL SALLY AND MICHELE

ACTU Secretary Sally McManus and President Michele O'Neil have announced they will both step down from their roles within months, paving the way for new leadership of Australia's trade union movement.

Sally and Michele have stood by MEU members on picket lines, at rallies and in the halls of Parliament – backing our fight for Same Job Same Pay and winning extensive reforms to help working people.

We thank them for their leadership, their achievements and their friendship; and wish them all the best for the future.



COAL LSL REFORM

Coal mine workers who used to miss out on Coal Long Service Leave will now be included, thanks to MEU advocacy leading to a change in law.

Federal Parliament has closed a loophole so that now workers who spend a majority of their working time at coal mines are now included in our portable long service scheme.

Now, coal mine workers won't miss out because of the corporate structure of their employer.

This recognizes the years of hard work and commitment these workers put in to our industry and allows them to recover from the demands of the job and enjoy time with their loved ones.

We fought for our Long Service Leave over seventy years ago, and the MEU never stopped fighting to make it stronger.

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END OF THE LINE FOR GREG

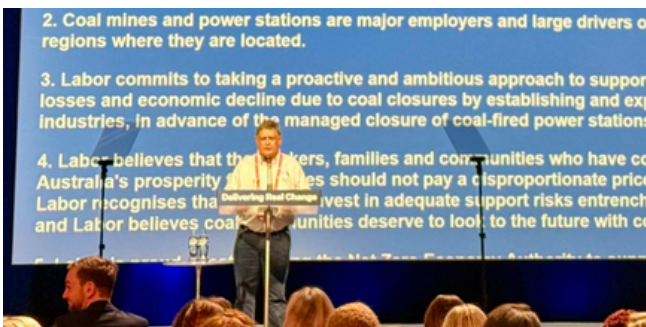
MEU stalwart Greg Brandis (pictured right) retired this month after an extraordinary 50-year career driving trains, including long stints in the Pilbara iron ore industry.

From the Robe River lockout to the Howard-era attacks on unions, Greg played a leading role in some of the defining industrial battles of his generation, including a successful long-running fight for re-employment after BHP refused to hire union members.



After joining Rio Tinto, he helped build a strong Lodge, mentored new activists and was instrumental in securing a strong collective agreement in 2024. On behalf of the entire MEU, we thank Greg for his lifelong contribution to our Union and wish him and his wife Jo all the very best in retirement.

POLICY WINS ON TRAINEES, LOCKOUTS



The MEU has scored some important policy wins, paving the way for the Same Job Same Pay trainee loophole to be closed, disproportionate lockouts to be ended, and more long-term support for coal communities secured.



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