

Common Cause.

September 2026

HUNTER VALLEY OPERATIONS EXTENDED!

In breaking news, the Independent Planning Commission has approved the Hunter Valley Operations Continuation Project, giving more than 1,500 workers and their families certainty about their future. Coal remains a backbone of the NSW economy. It and the people who work in the industry are critical to the state.



As long as there is demand for our coal, we should be selling it and making sure the workers and communities who produce it share in the benefits. This project deserved approval, and the Commission has made the right call.

The MEU commends all of our members who stood up at the Commission and said why these jobs are so important to their families, to local businesses and to towns across the Hunter.

BACK ULAN MINING JOBS

The MEU is calling on Glencore to offer permanent employment to contractors at Ulan Underground and create more opportunities for local employment in Mudgee and the surrounding communities.

This call comes as Glencore drags out bargaining and increasingly relies on temporary contractors in place of permanent jobs. We're asking all MEU members to sign our petition and support fair jobs and wages for Mudgee!



SIGN THE PETITION



Find out more: meu.org.au



PREMIER COAL: LAST AGREEMENT, BEST AGREEMENT

MEU members at Premier Coal in Collie, WA, have walked off the job this week, continuing the fight to bring forward pay increases and secure paid training time.

As this is likely to be the last enterprise agreement before the mine's scheduled closure, members are determined to deliver an agreement that recognises workers' contribution and provides the wages, certainty and protections they deserve.



REMEMBERING OUR LOST WORKERS



This month mineworkers, families and members of our community gathered at the Jim Comerford Memorial Wall for the MEU Northern Mining and NSW Energy District's 29th Annual Memorial Day Service. Together, we honoured the 1,794 men, women and children who have lost their lives in the Northern District coalfields over more than two centuries.

Behind every name on the wall is a person who went to work and never came home—and a family, workplace and community forever changed by their loss. Thank you to the families, members, community representatives and supporters who joined us for this deeply important day of remembrance.

DELTA MEU MEMBERS STEP UP ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

MEU members working for Delta Group at the Hazelwood rehabilitation site have raised over \$12,000 to fund the life-saving services of Lifeline and continue the support they provide to Aussies in need.

Coinciding with World Suicide Prevention Day, our members at Delta participated in Out of the Shadows, a walk-a-thon in memory of the nine Australians lost to suicide every day. Their donation will fund over 300 calls to the suicide hotline.

HARROW CREEK: 40 YEARS ON



One of the most consequential actions in the Queensland mining industry has been remembered 40 years on, as the former strikers gathered in Mackay to pay tribute to their comrades and reminisce over a beer.

In 1986, nine miners remained underground for over a week in protest of the planned closure of the mine's planned closure and the erosion of underground mining jobs in Queensland.

Jim Pearce, one of the strikers, recalled how the reaction of the sitting Nationals Party MP Denis Hinton – that the strikers were 'knee-deep in beer cans and cigarette butts' – inspired him to take a tilt for Parliament. Pearce went on to unseat Hinton and remained a fixture in Queensland Parliament for over 20 years.

OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FACES AT CENTRAL COUNCIL

The MEU's highest governing body met this month, welcoming five new members to Central Council, and farewelling two titans of the movement and long-term comrades of the MEU.

We honoured Michael O'Connor, National Secretary of the Timber, Furnishing, and Textiles Union, and Michele O'Neil, President of the ACTU, with a Miners' Lamp, in recognition of their decades of service to the union movement and the wellbeing of working people.

We also welcomed our newly elected ACTU Secretary Melissa Donnelly, and our new Central Councillors: James Hayes and Hannah Freriechs from the Queensland District, Matt Gosek and Aaron Phillips from the South West District, and Kyle Hunter from the Northern Mining and NSW Energy District.

