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October 2026

RELIEF AS NSW GOVT BACKS MOUNT PLEASANT JOBS



Workers at Mount Pleasant mine in NSW are relieved after the state Government has committed to protecting jobs amidst an ongoing legal battle about the mine's long-term future.

The commitment is a welcome relief for the workforce, who faced job cuts before Christmas. Proposed legislation will ensure production can continue at current rates, following a High Court decision which sent the mine's 2048 approval back to the drawing board. Crucially, MACH Energy must sign a legally binding Jobs Guarantee to maintain its permanent workforce before receiving the benefit of the legislation.

TAHMOOR – BACK IN ACTION!



MEU members at Tahmoor are returning to work in force as new owners GM3 ramp up hiring and production ahead of a December longwall restart.

The troubled mine fell into liquidation in March, one in a series of large employers brought down in the collapse of the GFG Empire. Forensic accounting has since revealed that the highly-profitable mine had been loaded with debt, and that liquidation – and the redundancy of hundreds of mineworkers – was avoidable.

GM3 are hiring and inducting workers on a staggered basis. The MEU is engaging with GM3 to prioritise workers who were previously employed at Tahmoor in hiring.

COAL INDUSTRY EXPORTS INCREASE

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Latest official forecasts predict growth in Australia's coal exports by over A$4 billion over the next year.

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The Federal Government's Chief Economist has released its updated assessment of the state of the coal industry, and for the second time this year it has increased its forecast for coal earnings.

Australia's coal export outlook has strengthened, with FY2027 earnings forecast at A$43.5 billion for metallurgical coal (up from A$39 billion), supported by stronger prices and higher demand from markets like India. Thermal coal exports are predicted to remain steady.

READ THE REPORT

JOBS FOR TOMORROW – SUPPORTING VICTORIA'S COAL REGIONS

Ahead of the Victorian state election, MEU members are calling on all parties to back Latrobe Valley coal power workers.

The Latrobe Valley has powered Victoria for 100 years, but there is desperate need for investment in the future of the region.

We've launched an ad campaign asking candidates to commit to support Jobs for Tomorrow – a costed plan to support new industries and new jobs that start before the old industries close.

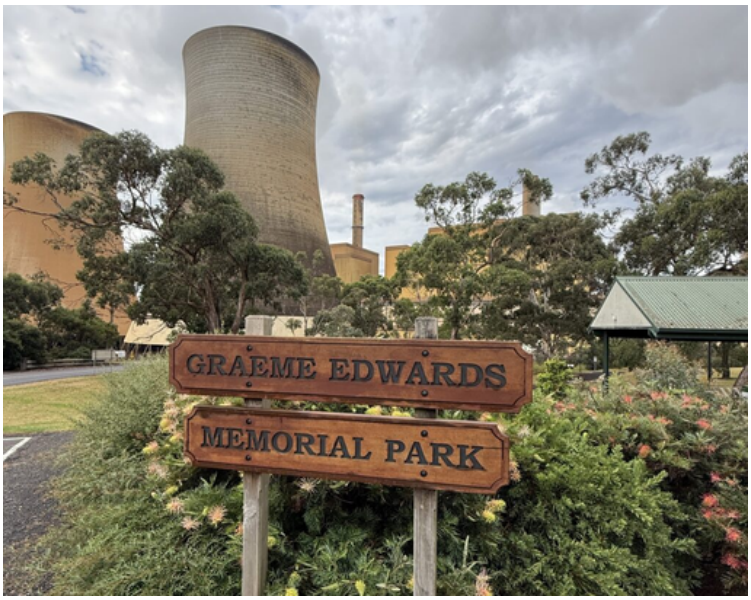


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SAFETY WIN FOR VICTORIAN COAL MINERS



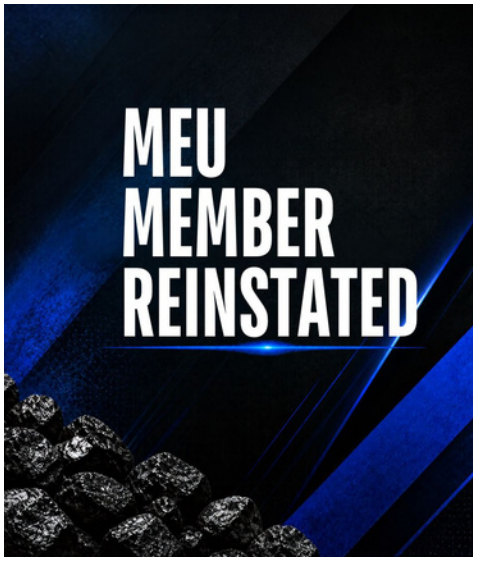
Years of advocacy by our Victorian District has resulted in WorkSafe Victoria creating two dedicated power generation safety specialist roles, ensuring the regulator has access to people with real-world experience in power station operations.

This is a significant step forward in improving safety oversight across Victoria's power industry and reflects the union's push for stronger industry expertise following the tragic death of Yallourn delegate Graeme Edwards in 2018.

MEU WINS WORKER REINSTATEMENT

The MEU Queensland District has won reinstatement and $110,000 in backpay for a BHP OS Production worker who was unfairly dismissed. The Goonyella Riverside mineworker spent 16 months unemployed following an alleged verbal altercation with a workmate.

The Fair Work Commission found that the allegations were lacking in specificity and unsubstantiated, and that BHP's employee relations manager had flagged the 'very real risk of unfair dismissal.' This case shows the power of standing together as a union to tackle injustice in the workplace. It pays to belong.



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ACTION AT KOGAN CREEK

MEU members at Kogan Creek have voted overwhelmingly for Industrial action in pursuit of a new agreement at the Central Queensland power station. Over 80% of eligible members responded to the ballot, unanimously supporting all potential actions including partial work bans like refusing to drive buggies and ride elevators around the site.

Workers are seeking pay rises above inflation and conditions to match operators at other Queensland Power Stations. These include an increase in superannuation, and income protection insurance.



Action is expected to commence in November after the plant has been restarted.

COBAR DISASTER: ONE YEAR ON

October 28 marked one year since the tragedy at the Endeavor Mine near Cobar in Western New South Wales. Two workers, Ambrose McMullen and Holly Clarke were killed in the incident which was caused by use of explosives in the underground workings. Another injured worker was airlifted from the site.



This disaster has shocked many in the Australian mining community and brought increased attention to safety standards in the NSW metalliferous sector, which lags behind the coal industry and lacks statutory officials like Industry Safety and Health Representatives.

Our thoughts are with their families, friends and colleagues on the anniversary. The MEU continues to fight for safer mine sites – including the expansion of worker-elected check inspectors in metalliferous mining.