



MINING & ENERGY UNION

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Submission in support of Clarence Colliery – Modification 11

The Mining and Energy Union South Western District (MEU) is proud to represent coal mineworkers in the New South Wales central west, including at Clarence Colliery and across the broader Lithgow region

The MEU makes this submission in strong support of Centennial Coal’s proposed Modification 11 for Clarence Colliery. The proposed extension of the mine’s operational life by five years to 31 December 2031 is critical to protecting secure, well-paid employment, maintaining industry skills in the Lithgow region, and sustaining the social and economic fabric of the local community.

Clarence Colliery and Centennial has been a long-standing and responsible employer in the Central West of New South Wales. The proposed modification does not introduce new mining activities or increase production but instead ensures continuity of existing approved operations with no material increase in environmental or social impacts.

This will provide ongoing employment for approximately 300 full-time workers, ensuring job security beyond the currently approved end date of 2026. For union members and their families, this extension represents stability, certainty, and the ability to plan for the future in a region where alternative large-scale employment opportunities are limited.

The loss of Clarence Colliery at the end of 2026 would result in a sudden and significant reduction in high-quality industrial jobs, with serious flow-on effects to contractors, suppliers, and service industries.

Clarence Colliery supports a highly skilled, workforce across mining operations, maintenance, trades, and technical roles. These are not short-term or casual jobs; they are long-term careers that support apprenticeships, training pathways, and the retention of critical mining skills within the region.

The continuation of Clarence Colliery operations will deliver substantial ongoing economic benefits to the Lithgow region and broader NSW economy. Workers employed at the mine live locally, spend locally, and support:

- Small businesses and retail services
- Hospitality and accommodation providers
- Trades, transport, and maintenance contractors
- Local schools, sporting clubs, and community organisations

The wages generated by Clarence Colliery flow directly into the community, underpinning economic resilience during a period of transition for regional NSW.

The Lithgow region has experienced significant industrial change in recent years. In this context, maintaining existing, approved mining operations is vital to ensuring an orderly and realistic transition for workers and the community.

The Mining and Energy Union strongly supports Modification 11 for Clarence Colliery and for above outlined reasons, the MEU urges the NSW Government to approve this and allow Clarence Colliery to continue operating until 2031.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Jenkins".

Mark Jenkins

Vice President

Mining and Energy Union Southwestern District Branch