



# Staff at the Coalface

23 January 2015

## **MORE UNCERTAINTY AT GRIFFIN**

Staff at Griffin Coal Mine in Western Australia have endured yet another uncertain Christmas, with contract Company Carna Group terminating its contract with Griffin in late December, after Griffin failed to make payments.

Early last year, Griffin engaged Carna Group to work its operations at the Griffin Mine, with a number of Griffin Staff transitioning across to work for Carna, and Griffin Management promising Staff that if the contract ended they would be reemployed by Carna. However, upon termination of the contract, 8 Staff working in key Staff roles were shocked to be told by Griffin that they were “no longer required” back to work at Griffin, leaving them in limbo, with no employment, and no redundancy pay.

Luckily, the Staff are still being paid by Carna at this stage, however their future is uncertain, with no-one stepping up to the plate to offer them full time roles, or redundancy pay. Your Union has been in consultation to find a solution, and is currently considering its legal options to assist those members.

Meanwhile, remaining Staff at Griffin are also facing uncertainty with the Company not currently operating, and are being encouraged to take leave and utilise their employment benefits, against the threat of insolvency. Your Union will continue to actively work with Griffin members through this difficult time.

## **MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2014**

At the beginning of another busy year in the coal industry, it's a good time to reflect on some of the great outcomes that members and your Union achieved in 2014 working together to secure conditions.

\* Members at Wollongong Coal stood together firmly despite great pressure from the Company, and with the assistance of your Union, recouped \$1.25 million in unpaid bonus entitlements.

\* Following announcement of the closure of the Integra Mine in NSW, your Union was able to assist members to recoup sick leave and redundancy payments owed, approximately \$25 million.

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\* Members at Wambo worked together to commence bargaining for their first enterprise agreement.

\* West Cliff Deputies re-negotiated their enterprise agreement. Deputies in the negotiations secured increased conditions and a review of their base salaries.

\* Centennial Members have engaged the community, collecting thousands of signatures supporting Staff close to or over the age of 60 been paid their full redundancy payments if they are retrenched.

\* Deputies at Wollongong Coal – Wongawilli entered into their first Enterprise Agreement.

\*Tahmoor Deputies have commenced negotiations for their next Enterprise Agreement.

\*Ensured that Wollongong Coal redundancies were paid out at the Award conditions.

**Collective action gets better outcomes.** If you have Staff or Deputies at your site who are not already members, ask them to join today. They can become a member by calling (02)9269 0688.

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