COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2026



Welcome from GM

Welcome to the first edition of the Metropolitan Mine Community Newsletter. In this first edition, we'll share updates about our work, our people and our plans for the future — and continue strengthening the connection we've had with Helensburgh and the Illawarra for more than 135 years.

This year we've progressed important planning work to secure the long-term future of the mine. These plans aim to provide certainty for local jobs, support the Illawarra's steel industry, and ensure Metropolitan continues contributing to the region's economy well into the 2040s. While the assessment process takes time, our commitment remains clear: to operate safely, responsibly and in close partnership with the community.

It's also been a proud moment to see a team member and one of our key innovations recognised as finalists in the 2026 Business Illawarra Awards. This achievement reflects the talent, innovation and dedication across our workforce, and the positive impact our people have both on site and in the wider mining industry.

It was wonderful to connect with so many of you at the Helensburgh Country Fair on 24 October, where Metropolitan supported the event's entertainment program. The Fair is a highlight on the local calendar, and we were honoured to help bring it to life alongside the Lions Club and the volunteers who make it such a valued community tradition.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to the months ahead and to continuing the strong partnerships that make this region such a great place to live and work.

James Hannigan, General Manager

Planning for the future of Metropolitan Mine

Metropolitan Mine has taken an important step in planning for the future of the operation, progressing work on a proposal that would allow mining to continue well into the 2040s. This long-term planning is essential for providing certainty for local jobs, supporting the Illawarra's steel industry, and maintaining the strong economic contribution the mine makes across the region.

The proposal looks at extending operations west of the current mining area, using existing infrastructure wherever possible and continuing the mine's long-standing focus on safe, responsible underground mining. Metropolitan supplies around a quarter of the steelmaking coal used at Port Kembla Steelworks, making this planning work vital for one of the Illawarra's largest employers and for industries that rely on Australian-made steel.

As part of this process, a range of environmental and technical studies are now underway. These include assessments of water, biodiversity, heritage, noise and air quality — all designed to ensure the proposal is thoroughly examined and meets the strict standards required in NSW. Community feedback will also play an important role, with early engagement already highlighting the value of employment certainty and the importance of protecting the local environment.

This planning work is still in its early stages, and there will be many steps ahead before any decisions are made. Metropolitan will continue to keep the community informed as the process progresses, and remains committed to operating safely, responsibly and in close partnership with the Helensburgh and Illawarra community.



Underground works continue as we plan the next chapter for Metropolitan Mine

Celebrating our 2026 Business Illawarra Awards finalists

Recognising the people and innovations shaping Metropolitan's future

Senior Mining Engineer Viviane Franco has been named a finalist in the Outstanding Employee category at the 2026 Business Illawarra Awards — a recognition that reflects both her technical capability and the positive impact she's had across Metropolitan Mine since joining in 2023.

Viviane plays a central role in the mine's planning team, working across everything from weekly schedules to long-term mine design and production forecasting. Her colleagues know her for her calm, thoughtful approach, her focus on safety, and her ability to bring teams together to solve complex challenges. Since arriving at Metropolitan, she has modernised planning systems, automated shift planning tools, strengthened production forecasting and helped optimise underground mine design — improvements that have made day-to-day operations smoother and more efficient.

Her influence extends well beyond Helensburgh. Viviane was awarded the Prêmio MINA by Women in Mining Brazil in 2025, recognising her as an outstanding Brazilian woman working internationally. She also mentors women in mining across Australia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Brazil through the FemMine program, supporting the next generation of engineers and operators entering the industry.

Viviane says being named a finalist is a proud moment.

"I really enjoy the chance to make a difference at Metropolitan, and I'm grateful for the support Peabody provides for staff to strive for excellence and innovation."

Her nomination highlights the calibre of people who help keep Metropolitan Mine running safely, responsibly and with a strong commitment to community and inclusion.

Outstanding Employee finalist: Viviane Franco

A leader in planning, innovation and mentoring across the mining industry



Viviane Franco is no stranger to winning mining awards

Excellence in Innovation finalist: Remote Operations Centre

A safer, smarter way to operate the longwall



Inside the Remote Operations Centre

Metropolitan Mine's Remote Operations Centre (ROC) has been named a finalist in the Excellence in Innovation category at the 2026 Business Illawarra Awards — recognition for a project that is reshaping how longwall mining is carried out in the Illawarra.

The ROC brings longwall control to the surface for the first time at Metropolitan, connecting underground operations to a purpose-built control room via fibre optic cable. Operators now manage the longwall using 17 screens and 15 cameras, giving them clearer visibility than was ever possible at the coalface. The system was developed in partnership with Komatsu, Automation 101 and Coal Services Health, and designed to meet the highest ergonomic and safety standards.

The innovation addresses a long-standing challenge in underground mining: how to reduce workers' exposure to dust, gas, confined spaces and physical strain. By relocating longwall operation to the surface, the ROC allows operators to work full 12-hour shifts in a safer, more comfortable environment. It also creates opportunities for restricted-duty workers to continue contributing meaningfully to the operation.

The impact has been immediate. Since going live, the system has added up to seven hours of additional production time daily by allowing coal cutting to continue through shift changeovers. The project cost $135,000 and returned roughly three times its investment within its first 24 hours of operation — a rare example of innovation delivering both safety and productivity benefits at once.

The ROC's recognition as an awards finalist reflects Metropolitan's commitment to practical, people-focused innovation that strengthens the mine's long-term future and supports safer, more sustainable operations for the Illawarra community.

Thanks for a great day at the Helensburgh Fair

More than 300 people stopped by our stall at the Helensburgh Country Fair on 24 October, and our team loved catching up with so many locals.

As the main stage entertainment sponsor, we were proud to help the Helensburgh Lions Club put on a lively program for families and visitors. The Fair is one of the highlights of the local calendar, and it was great to be part of it in a town we've called home since 1888.

The balloon artist drew a steady crowd all day, and our prize wheel was just as popular, with plenty of Peabody merch heading home with happy winners. We also loved seeing past generations of Metropolitan workers drop in to see how much has changed since their time at the mine.

Eighty people tried their luck at guessing the weight of our steelmaking coal. Guesses ranged from 20 kg to 230 kg, but congratulations to Helensburgh local Diesel Cooper, whose guess of 73.0 kg was just 0.26 kg off the actual weight of 72.74 kg. Diesel takes home a $200 gift card.

Just as valuable were the conversations. Many locals asked about our plans to continue mining into the 2040s and what that means for local jobs and the Illawarra's steel industry. We had a lot of positive chats and really appreciated the feedback.

Thank you to the Helensburgh Lions Club, the volunteers and everyone who came to say hello. We hope to see you at next year's Fair.











A much-loved day out for families across Helensburgh and the Illawarra

Community contact information

Email:
info@peabodyenergy.com

Web:
www.metropolitanmine.com.au

Complaints:
1800 115 003

Phone:
(02) 4294 7200

Community information and feedback

Community Consultative Committee (CCC)

Our CCC members share information about our mine with the community and provide us with community feedback. Minutes of quarterly meetings are on our website. New members can apply to join the CCC.

Email:
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