



Dear Member,

**The AWU is fighting to ensure the Australian Steel industry is safe and kept open today, and into the future.**

The safety of our members is, without a doubt, the highest priority for the Australian Workers' Union.

AWU officials and organisers are working to ensure the Steel industry is taking all necessary safety precautions to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

As the response to the coronavirus escalates we are seeing some industries closed by governments. We support action to protect workers and the public, but where we can safely operate within health guidelines at a state and national level essential industries such as steel should remain open.

Unlike retail and hospitality – a temporary shutdown in parts of the complex steel supply chain will risk the permanent closure of the steel industry, cost thousands of jobs, and compromise our nation's sovereignty in a geopolitically volatile time.

**We are working around the clock with governments and employers to ensure that we can safely keep our industry open and running and maintain the complex supply chain involved in steel production.**

The Australian Steel industry employs 110,000 workers, and supports six times as many full-time jobs in related industries down the supply chain.

We support the work of State and Federal Governments in responding to the coronavirus outbreak, but their response must ensure it does not place steel jobs and the long term future of our industry at risk.

The AWU is working with industry to ensure additional safety measures are being introduced to increase physical distancing, splitting shifts where necessary and maintaining the highest hygiene standards in order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 infections to members.

If we fail to exercise caution or apply best practice health and safety practices it is more likely that our industry will be temporarily closed down – putting the long term future of our jobs at huge risk.

To keep the industry open, it is extremely important that every worker in the industry is taking all necessary safety precautions to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Stay healthy, stay safe, and contact your AWU delegate or organiser if you need support in your workplace – we are with you every step of the way.**

In unity,

**Peter Lamps**

State and Branch Union Secretary  
The Australian Workers' Union  
Amalgamated AWU (SA) State Union

