

Thursday, 13 August 2026

ACTU: Tomago deal shows workers don't have to choose between job security and climate change

Australian Unions welcome today's agreement to secure the future of the Tomago aluminium smelter, saying it shows Australia can cut emissions, strengthen industry and protect regional jobs at the same time.

The agreement between the Federal and New South Wales Government, backed by long-term power arrangements with Snowy Hydro, ends months of uncertainty for more than 1,000 Tomago workers and thousands more whose livelihoods depend on the smelter.

Tomago directly employs more than 1,000 workers and supports up to 5,000 additional jobs across the Hunter region. The deal helps secure those jobs while also supporting the investment needed to power Australian industrial future by setting up the facility to meet growing demand for green aluminium.

Analysis from Energy and Resource Insights estimates the deal could create up to 3,900 direct construction jobs and 130 ongoing jobs at new or expanded clean energy facilities.

Quotes attributable to ACTU President, Michele O'Neil:

"For too long, working people have been told they have to choose between secure jobs and action on climate change. Today's agreement shows we can do both.

"More than 1,000 Tomago workers and their families can now look to the future with greater certainty because the Federal and State Government have stepped in to secure their jobs and deliver the cheap, reliable clean energy needed to keep their smelter running.

"This is what Future Made in Australia looks like in practice. Supporting local jobs, backing regional communities and investing in the industries that will help drive Australia's industrial future.

"Australians want action on climate change, and they also want good secure jobs in their communities. The best solutions deliver both and that's exactly what this agreement does."

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