



Senator Malcolm Roberts
One Nation Senator for Queensland

19 March 2020

Mr Peter Acheson
Chief Executive Officer
Chandler MacLeod Group
Level 5, 345 George Street
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Acheson

I write to express my concern in regard to the abuses of casual black coal mine workers at BHP's Mt Arthur Mine in New South Wales.

I was concerned to hear about Chandler MacLeod Group's (CMG) part in the abuses these everyday Australians have endured and I seek your response and support to put things right.

I am informed that CMG, as the labour-hire employer, may have colluded with the CFMEU (Hunter Valley Mines Division) to rip-off casual workers by negotiating a 'sham' agreement. Apparently, CMG underpaid the casual black coal miners 40% knowing these workers were slipping through the 'cracks' in the industrial relations and workers insurance systems. I and many everyday Australians think that this is immoral.

I am also told that CMG underpaid and under-declared the number of people on site and the types of jobs they did, declaring that the casual miners who were working at the coalface were 'administrative staff' in order to save money on insurance premiums.

I understand that CMG, as the employer, did not have appropriate insurances to cover workers they employed at Mt Arthur Mine and that CMG failed over a period of five years to pay these workers the entitlements due to black coal miners.

Further, I am informed that CMG entered into an enterprise agreement declaring that you had no casuals on site, when there were already casuals working for you on site at the mine.

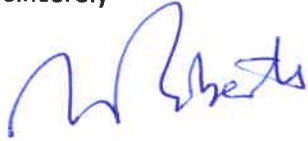
Further, your company has allegedly submitted defective documentation to Coal LSL and CMG under-reported employee data for many years. Why? When I questioned Coal LSL in recent Senate Estimates hearings, they admitted they had found these 'discrepancies'.

Regardless of how CMG and BHP determined to use labour-hire as a way of reducing mine production costs, the lower pay rates and the significant loss of entitlements has seen the coal industry join various national retailers and others accused of ripping-off workers with "wage theft". Surely it is time for you and CMG to act with honour and to take action to pay these people their entitlements and to compensate many for their physical and emotional suffering and trauma.

It is time for CMG to prove itself to be a good corporate citizen and to put things right. I ask you and CMG to become a part of the solution. Australia is watching.

If you require further information or wish to discuss this matter I would be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M Roberts', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Malcolm Roberts
Senator for Queensland