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New NSW coal strategy supports Hunter's transition

The NSW Government's updated coal strategy will provide important industry support and investment confidence as the Hunter region continues its economic and energy diversification journey, Business Hunter said today.

Business Hunter CEO Bob Hawes said support for extensions to existing coal mines, outlined in the *NSW Coal Industry 2026-50* strategy, would protect jobs and provide energy security and economic certainty to underpin the transition to renewables.

"The strategy recognises coal will remain an important part of the state and regional economy and energy mix for some time and provides the policy certainty that industry, trading partners, mining workers and businesses along the supply chain have been seeking," Mr Hawes said.

"It provides more confidence for mine operations to move forward with expansion or extension plans where there is demand and conditions for approval can be met.

"It also gives existing operations more clarity and direction to continue investing in measures to reduce their carbon footprint."

The strategy statement commits the State Government to supporting coal production for energy security and sovereign steelmaking capability while requiring mining operations to continue reducing and mitigating emissions. It rules out the development of new coal mines.

Mr Hawes said the finalisation of the strategy was an important step for those who work in and rely on the mining industry and businesses in the region that need a reliable and affordable energy supply.

"We have long advocated for a pragmatic and balanced approach to transition that supports our traditional industries while they remain essential and ensures that energy supply and manufacturing capability are not compromised," Mr Hawes said.

"The strategy provides the stability that is needed as the renewables sector continues to scale up."

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