

# Moranbah North coal mine shut down due to dangerous carbon monoxide levels

By Danielle Jesser    Mining and Metals Industry

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The Moranbah North coal mine was closed this afternoon for safety reasons. *(Supplied)*

## In short:

Moranbah North, owned by Anglo American, was safely evacuated after dangerous gas levels were detected about 3pm on Monday.

Moranbah North is the sister mine to Grosvenor Mine which remains closed after an underground fire in June 2024.

## What's next?

Resources Health and Safety Queensland says there will be consultation before the mine reopens.

Production at one of Queensland's biggest underground coal mines has stopped after high levels of carbon monoxide were detected.

The Anglo American-owned Moranbah North mine in Central Queensland — 200 kilometres south-west of Mackay — was safely evacuated after dangerous gas levels were detected at about 3pm.

A Resources Health and Safety Queensland (RHSQ) spokesperson the coal inspector had been advised and was assisting the mine in its response.

Moranbah North was previously shut down in 2021 due to high gas readings.

And the mine is 15 kilometres from the Grosvenor coal mine, which [remains closed after an underground explosion in June 2024](#).



The Grosvenor coal mine is about 5 kilometres outside of Moranbah in Queensland.

## Mine reports 'over pressure event'

In a statement Anglo American said an "over pressure event" occurred at the long wall face of the mine.

"The underground environment is under continuous monitoring and this indicates a stable atmosphere," a spokesperson said.

"All personnel are safe. The health and safety of our people is paramount and an orderly evacuation to the surface was safely completed, according to our action response plan."

Mining and Energy Union National vice-president Steven Smyth said high levels of carbon monoxide were concerning.

"They can be indicative of a spontaneous combustion or oxidation event. It's one indicator every mine uses to determine that status.

**"The bonus is that no-one was injured and everyone was evacuated safely," Mr Smyth said.**



Union representative Steven Smyth says workers are safe. (ABC News: Katherine Gregory)

Industry safety representatives from the union were travelling to the mine tonight.

It is unknown how many workers were on site but Mr Smyth said it was likely more than 100 people were working on the day shift.

An Anglo American spokesperson said Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) was informed immediately, as were site and industry safety and health representatives.

The next steps would be determined in consultation with RSHQ, the spokesperson said.

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