

From: Daniel

Sent: 05 March 2026 16:01

To: Gruffydd, Llyr (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Llyr.Gruffydd@senedd.wales>

Cc: Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee | Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith <SeneddClimate@senedd.wales>

Subject: Mining Legacy Working Group

Dear Llyr,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.

As you are aware, on 04/02/2026, the Deputy First Minister [announced a new mining legacy working group](#) which will draw together "the right group of stakeholders" to consider the challenges and opportunities to resolve the reclamation and regeneration of mining legacy sites - including former opencast sites - to become beneficial assets for communities, as well as support local economies and the wider environment. The working group has been created in response to [recommendation 7](#) of a short committee inquiry into the restoration of opencast mining sites (August 2024) by the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee (CCEIC).

We believe it's vital for this working group to include civil society representatives within "the right group of stakeholders" to give the working group credibility and ensure that it stays focused on delivering outcomes for the surrounding communities who have voiced safety and amenity concerns about under-restored opencast coal mine sites in their areas. As the leading civil society voice on mine restoration issues, and with strong relationships in impacted communities, Coal Action Network is a clear candidate for this - but what is most important is that impacted communities are represented at the highest levels within this working group for it to deliver on the CCEIC's recommendation. We ask you to consider raising this with members of the CCEIC, to establish whether there is support for the Committee to formally write to the Deputy First Minister urging the inclusion of civil society voices.

We have contacted some members of the CCEIC individually and believe they have supported the call for Coal Action Network to be included within the working group's membership or stakeholders. In addition, we hope that the CCEIC as a Committee may be inclined to more generally (not necessarily Coal Action Network specifically) urge the First Minister to ensure the priorities of impacted communities are represented by civil society organisations within the Mining Legacy Working group.

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Regards,

Daniel Therkelsen

Coal Action Network

www.coalaction.org.uk

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