

# NATIONAL COLES MEAT UNIT UPDATE



**AMIEU**  
FEDERAL

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## Dear member,

We are now into negotiations for a new agreement with Coles to cover all workers in meat units across the country under the one agreement.

Our negotiating committee includes representatives from all states of Australia as well as several store-based AMIEU delegates.

Of key concern is wages of course, having gone for a while without increases, but we are also focussing on rosters and flexibility to make sure that rostering arrangements remain as family friendly as possible.

Some key battlegrounds are now emerging, other than wages, and these are largely the following:

- Non-working days and public holidays
- Rates for work on public holidays
- Butchers picnic day
- Domestic violence leave
- Junior rates
- Sunday penalty rates
- Annual leave loading

There are other differences between us and Coles, but it is likely that these will be resolved soon or if not, we will flag them in further newsletters.

We are only three weeks into negotiations at this date and so once we get a little further over the next few weeks we will provide a more comprehensive guide to members as to how the agreement is looking.

A key point of negotiations is to preserve wherever possible what our members already have in their state based agreements.

That being said, there are areas where compromise will be needed for consistency across all states (as an example some states have a 3 hour minimum engagement for part time workers and some have a 4 hour minimum....the agreement will have one or the other) but again we will try and protect existing workers wherever possible.

At the end of the negotiations we will ensure that members get a proper and balanced briefing of the agreement that doesn't just focus on the good things achieved.

Our organisers are all up to speed on the state of discussions with Coles and will be more than happy to give further details or

clarification to members as they visit your stores. As always, the branch offices are also happy to take your calls.

We will provide a further update in a few weeks' time when we should be able to point out exactly what is holding up the reaching of agreement and get the views of members on the outstanding issues.

Remember that whatever is discussed at these negotiations always comes back to the membership to vote on. Our members always get the final say.



**Graham Smith**  
*Federal Secretary*

**Questions?** Contact your local AMIEU branch office to learn more.