

# COLES MEAT UNIT UNION UPDATE

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## Dear members,

By now you will have seen the Notice of Employee Representational Rights that has been issued by Coles.

Basically this is a fancy title for a formal document that is required by law to be put out by the employer. It points out your rights to representation at negotiations. If you are a member of the Union, the Union officers will automatically represent you and you need do nothing.

As many of you are already aware all of the state based enterprise agreements covering meat unit staff in all states except Queensland have expired, and the new Coles national supermarket agreement does not cover meat unit staff in Queensland. It has been a while since your last pay rise and this is the very point of having the negotiations.

This round of bargaining sees us move from state based agreements to one national

meat unit agreement covering all states and territories of Australia.

We will be meeting weekly with Coles for the next few weeks and over two days at a time to try and reach final agreement as quickly as possible and get your pay moving upwards.

Our goal will be to protect all of the good conditions currently within your respective state based agreements and consolidate them into one agreement.

Penalty rates are high on the agenda as we look to restore the penalty rates that have been traded off over the years. The process will involve some probably complex negotiations with Coles followed by feedback to members, with our members always getting the final say to any proposed agreement. This means that ultimately a vote will be taken of the workers affected by this agreement and will either be

voted up or down according to the wishes of the majority of workers.

From that point if the vote is in favour of the agreement, the proposal will be submitted to the Fair Work Commission for approval. The Commission will go through the agreement and check that it leaves workers better off than the award and if so, approval will be given and the agreement comes into force.

We will keep all of our members up to date with progress of negotiations as regularly as possible and if you have any queries on the process or any updates we provide, please feel free to contact your local branch office for more information.

**Graham Smith**  
*Federal Secretary*



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