



MEDIA RELEASE

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MEAT WORKERS LOCKED OUT

Spring lamb supplies are under threat after workers at Victoria's largest meat processing plant were locked out at 5.00am this morning (Friday), by multi-national Brazilian meat processor, Swift Australia.

One hundred and forty cold storage workers at Swift Australia, Brooklyn had agreed to taking industrial action following a wage offer well below the cost of living.

With Christmas only weeks away the company has retaliated by locking out all of its workers in the cold store for an indefinite period.

NUW Victorian Secretary Tim Kennedy said a 2 per cent pay rise and a reduction in penalty rates offered to the workers was unfair and disrespectful.

"This pay offer will send workers and their families backwards at a time when workers are facing real cost of living pressures through higher interest rates and higher utilities prices," Mr Kennedy said.

"The company's approach to its workers is not good enough and our members won't accept it."

"Locking out of low paid workers who are simply seeking a fair and decent pay rise will be resisted by these workers and the NUW."

"Cold storage workers at Swift endure low pay and tough conditions, and handle lamb that ends up on tables around the world," Mr Kennedy said.

Mr Kennedy said Coles Supermarket, meat retailers and export markets would be affected by the strike.

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