



18 June 2013

Joint Media Statement

Teys Australia & Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union

In December 2012, articles were published in the Rockhampton Morning Bulletin regarding concerns about the treatment of refugee workers at the Teys Australia Lakes Creek operation. The articles included quotes attributed to representatives of the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (AMIEU).

The articles contained comments which Teys Australia believes were unfairly critical of Teys Australia's approach to the way foreign workers engaged at its operations are treated by the company. The AMIEU seeks improvements to the industrial arrangements of workers in the meat processing industry. On this occasion, industrial issues that the AMIEU were entitled to press became intermingled in media coverage unfairly portraying the manner in which Teys Australia treats its culturally diverse workforce.

Teys Australia is proud of its strong record in the recruitment of foreign workers and the creation of work opportunities for them. It is also proud of its success in supporting them in the process of settling into the local communities and has invested greatly in these communities. Some recent examples include:

- sponsorship of the CQ Multi-cultural council
- integration of international school children into the Rockhampton school system
- celebration of Filipino Independence Day celebrations
- sponsorship of numerous local sporting teams
- engagement in and sponsorship of a number of local New Year celebrations

The AMIEU recognises that although it was not its intention, the articles as published were unbalanced and unfair as far as Teys Australia is concerned. The AMIEU acknowledges that Teys Australia has a strong and positive record in relation to its support for its foreign workers.

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