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Media Release

Teys Australia holds talks with union as workers call for end to industrial dispute

Chief executive officer of Teys Australia, Brad Teys, has revealed that staff at the company's Beenleigh processing plant have expressed that they've "had a gutful" of the continued industrial action over a new workplace agreement and want the ongoing dispute resolved as soon as possible.

The CEO was speaking following yesterday's meeting with the Australasian Meat Industry Employees Union (AMIEU), which he described as "respectful and productive".

He also said that the company was considering its approach to the proposed bonus system, following concerns from workers. "We are listening to our staff and we will consider what they say. This is what negotiation is about and this is the reason we have said all along that the strike action from the union was premature," he explained.

However he said that while the company was working to end the action, the union still doesn't understand the 'big-picture' need for industry reform.

"The only way we will reach agreement is for the AMIEU to negotiate with an enterprise and productivity focus. They still don't understand the need for change."

Mr Teys explained that the cost of production in Australia was \$300 a beast while in the USA it was \$150 and in Brazil \$111.

"Almost every person in Australia - including respected former trade union officials like Bill Kelty and Martin Ferguson - recognises that for manufacturing to survive and be competitive on the global market, we can't keep doing things the way we did them in the seventies."

He said while the company's aim was to ensure the profitability of the Beenleigh plant and job security for almost 1000 on-site staff, "the union is still obsessed with industry issues like union access to lunchrooms, site rates and playing union videos at new staff inductions".

Teys' Beenleigh plant is a vital part of the community, paying around \$40 million dollars in wages each year, much of which is invested locally.

"My aim is to bring these negotiations to a resolution, for the sake of our company, our staff, their families and the local community."



"It's now time for the union to work with us and become a part of the solution, not part of the problem."

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