

June 2009

# MEAT INDUSTRY NEWS



## Western Australia Retail Council Report

By Vince Garreffa

**The Western Australia Retail Council has been busy during the past few months organising events which promote our Independent Local Butchers.** The latest event was the Butchers Picnic, which was held on Sunday 29th March at Russell Square in Northbridge. We received excellent media coverage in the West Australian Newspaper as well as on Radio 6PR and this all helped to ensure we had a most successful day.

Congratulations to all our Lamb Sausage and Lamb Burger Crown entrants who took part in this event and for making this a terrific contest. Our thanks also go to the City of Perth and to MLA for their sponsorship and support and to the Lord Mayor of City of Perth The Hon Lisa Scaffidi, who attended and presented the trophies to the winners.

**The March Retail Council Meeting was attended by Graham Martin from Australian Pork Limited, who presented an overview of recent promotions.** The BBQ Pork Summer Promotion that ran during February and March was very successful. APL statistics show sales

of Pork increased in volume by 19% as a direct consequence of this promo. APL's current promotion is a Pork and Veal Mince featured promo which started with our ILBs in early May and APL is confident of a repeat increase of sales. AMIC Retail Council is committed to working with APL to increase the sales of Australian Pork through the Independent Local Butcher network.

**The National Retail Council has provided strong input to the revision of the Meat Industry Strategic Plan.** This plan identifies the strategic goals and acknowledges the key issues for the meat industry and our retail members for 2010-2015. In turn this directs the flow of grower and processor levies, particularly in meat promotion.

The following Strategic Goals have been agreed:

1. Improving Efficiency
2. Growing Demand and Improving Standards
3. Resources – address labour skills and OH&S
4. Regulation- Adapting to environmental and regulatory initiatives
5. Improving Industry viability

**AMIC has been successful in having Meat Retailing excluded from the first Modern Awards for General Retail.** This decision handed down in late December clears the way for AMIC to continue with the submission that there should be a separate Modern Meat Award. This matter will be considered by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in the near future. Further information is available elsewhere in this Newsletter and in the National Newsletter.

**You are welcome to attend the meetings of the Retail Council. Please contact Mike Thomas if you require more details of meeting dates or any of the issues raised above.**

### THANK YOU TO OUR LAMB SAUSAGE AND LAMB BURGER CROWN SPONSORS



## New Federal IR/ Workplace Laws - they are nearly here for WA & Tasmania

For nearly 100 years meat industry employers in WA and Tasmania – whether a 'Pty Ltd' or sole trader or a partnership entity – were operating under the state IR systems. That somewhat changed with the 2006 WorkChoices legislation of the Howard Federal Government when national employers (Pty Ltd entities) were partially brought under the federal system. The Rudd Government has now fully integrated national employers into the federal system.

Please find an insert with the Newsletters. It contains a fairly comprehensive summary of the new laws. Some changes apply from 1 July 2009 and some from 1 January 2010.

These new laws will apply to national employers (Pty Ltd entities), including national employers in

WA and Tasmania. They do not apply to entities operating as sole traders or partnerships in WA and Tasmania. For the laws to apply to sole traders or partnerships in WA and Tasmania, the state governments would have to hand over their IR powers to Canberra just as Victoria did some 18 years ago. We will keep you informed if this occurs.

The changes are far reaching and if the new laws apply to you, please read the document carefully.

Unfair dismissal laws have changed and apply irrespective of the number of employees. These changes happen on 1 July so you need to understand them and have only a few weeks to do so.

New laws apply to the making of federal agreements and the bargaining process. These

changes occur on 1 July. New Modern Awards will replace all the awards now applying to national employers. This will occur on 1 January.

There will be a Modern Meat Industry Award applying to all national employers in WA and Tasmania. At this point it has not been published by the Federal Commission. The reason is because the Commission has been given the task of reducing over 3000 awards down to about 80 industry awards and they are judge and jury with no appeal. A Modern Meat Industry Award will be finalized by September.

**There are many more changes that will affect national employers in WA and Tasmania. If in any doubt about any of the subject matter contained in the insert please contact AMIC.**