

Page.11 – Question 1:

Senator CANAVAN: With the Coles arrangement you've got, what are the specific obligations on Coles to ensure that payments to farmers provide the ability to pay a decent rate?

Mr Roulstone: I might have to take that one on notice and read the MOU carefully. To be fair, I think everyone in that room wants farmers to be profitable. We raise farmers' concerns on a regular basis. The Coles process has a couple of auditing processes which are meant to ensure that the farmer receives a fair price for their produce. I'm not saying that that auditing process works all the time; it's got plenty of room for improvement. That's part of the internal auditing process.

Response to question on notice:

The RSCA was established to end widespread worker exploitation in the Australian horticulture industry. Accordingly, the terms of the MOU are generally focused around workers protection.

All parties of the Coles Ethical Retail Supply Chain Accord have committed to the goal of ending all forms of exploitation in the retail supply chain, from suppliers' farms to the consumers' front gate and every step in between.

When decent farmers who are in the supply chain raise concerns around produce prices paid by Coles, the AWU will normally pass this information onto Coles for their consideration and review.