

MEDIA RELEASE
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**ACCR resolution withdrawn after Woolworths and NUW reach historic agreement
on human rights of farmworkers**

Woolworths Limited (ASX:WOW) and the National Union of Workers (NUW) have agreed to partner to ensure that the human rights of workers in Woolworths' fresh food supply chains are upheld.

As a result, Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) today withdrew a shareholder resolution set to be voted on at Woolworths' AGM in Melbourne tomorrow.

View Woolworths' ASX announcement of withdrawal of ACCR's shareholder resolution [here](#).

ACCR had assisted over 100 shareholders including NUW and LUCRF Super to propose the resolution, calling on the company to disclose to shareholders their policies and procedures for dealing with human rights risks in their operations and business relationships. The resolution followed widespread media coverage of worker exploitation on Australian farms, and Woolworths score of under 20% in ACCR's recent report on *Human rights and Australian listed companies* (available [here](#)).

Read the resolution and supporting statement [here](#).

ACCR's resolution kick-started a round of focused conversations between NUW and Woolworths' management about how to identify and address these issues in Woolworths' business. The company and the trade union have agreed to work together to implement a pre-qualification program for labour-hire providers, to ensure that all labour providers who wish to operate in Woolworths' direct fresh food supply chains comply with labour and human rights standards.

Brynn O'Brien, Executive Director of ACCR, said, "we commend both Woolworths and NUW for the constructive and genuine approach they have brought to dealing with these serious issues.

"Once implemented, this model has the potential to be best in class in Australia, and will put Woolworths in a strong position in comparison with its international peers.

"Importantly, it has the potential to not only weed out instances of severe exploitation, like human trafficking and 'modern slavery,' but also the far more prevalent issues of underpayment, poor working conditions, and workplace harassment and assault.

"This agreement also represents an acknowledgement by an ASX 100 company of the materiality of human rights and labour risks to shareholder value.

“This is a sensible outcome that will protect the people involved in producing the food we eat every day, as well as the interests of Woolworths and its shareholders. It is truly a win-win situation. It may prove transformative for the agricultural sector in Australia, and Woolworths deserves strong praise for its leadership,” Ms O’Brien said.

Woolworths’ statement provides:

“following discussions with the NUW and [ACCR], Woolworths has committed to:

- work collaboratively towards the implementation of an agreed pre-qualification programme for labour-hire providers to ensure that all labour providers who wish to operate in Woolworths’ direct fresh food supply chains comply with labour and human rights standards;

- support workers in Woolworths’ supply chains:
 - to be educated about their workplace rights, including their right to join a labour union of their choice;
 - to have access to an effective grievance mechanism to ensure that human rights violations are reported, investigated and remediated”

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