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Toll picket set to end as deal looms

23 July 2012 4:18pm

Striking Toll Holdings workers at the Coles Somerton distribution warehouse are expected to vote this afternoon to accept a new deal which the union says addresses all the "core claims" at the heart of the dispute.

Speaking outside Fair Work Australia after Toll had withdrawn its appeal against an earlier ruling that the workers' picket line did not breach good faith bargaining requirements, NUW Victorian branch secretary Tim Kennedy said he expected workers to accept the "much better offer".

Subject to their acceptance, Kennedy said the picket line would end this afternoon and workers would return to work tomorrow.

He said the agreement would be voted on by NUW members today and then the entire 600-strong workforce would be given the opportunity to vote on the draft enterprise agreement next Monday.

While refusing to provide details of the offer before it was put to members, Kennedy said the agreement had been reached after negotiations over the weekend and this morning.

He said most of the "fundamental issues" had been addressed, and had involved concessions by both the union and the company.

Kennedy said the proposed settlement also meant that the union would no longer be under threat of a possible damages action by the company for breaches of the interim injunction granted by the Supreme Court (See [Related Article](#)).

Toll workers walked off the job on July 10 after failing to secure an agreement which guaranteed them the same terms and conditions as other distribution warehouse workers directly employed by Coles.

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