

## NSW Opposition's Industrial Relations policy

August 2017

On 29 July 2017, New South Wales (NSW) Opposition Leader, Mr. Luke Foley, committed a future Labor Government to changes to NSW' industrial relations landscape to better protect workers, and young workers in particular, from exploitation.

The five-point plan is:

1. The introduction of new wage theft laws which criminalise the deliberate and systematic failure of wages payment or breaches of other workplace entitlements by employers. This new wage theft offence would be punishable by fine or potential jail time for both individuals and companies.
2. The passing of legislation to hold head franchisors liable for breaches of wage theft and workplace entitlements that occur within their network/s.
3. Widening the powers of workplace inspectors to include audits of unpaid wages and superannuation as part of their workers' compensation audits.
4. Establishing a licensing scheme for labour hire companies, including the implementation of a 'fit and proper person' test on labour hire operators, owners and directors. Labour hire operators would also be placed within the Industrial Relations Commission's jurisdiction.
5. Legislating penalty rates in the State Awards and Agreements.

### Further information

Mr. Foley's speech is available [here](#) and a media release on the announcement is available [here](#).

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