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NEW COLES DISTRIBUTION CENTRE TO CREATE 200 LOCAL JOBS FOR VICTORIANS

-Premier welcomes investment of over \$80m in Truganina

Coles today announced that its new distribution centre in Truganina, west of Melbourne, will create 200 new local jobs when it opens next year.

The 80,000 square metre warehouse - four times the size of the MCG stadium - will also provide work for more than 60 contractors and suppliers, employing a further 250 – mostly local - workers during the construction phase.

Work started on the site earlier this year and is scheduled to be completed next May. Once open the new distribution centre will operate 24 hours per day seven days per week servicing all 195 Coles stores across Victoria, as well as the seven new stores planned to open across the State in the next 18 months.

The total number of Coles team members employed at the site when fully operational will be 750, including 550 transferring from an existing distribution centre in Altona and the 200 new roles.

Speaking as he toured the site with Victorian Premier, Ted Baillieu, Coles Managing Director Ian McLeod said: “Our investment in fresh new stores for customers means more Australians than ever are choosing to shop at Coles. Making sure we have everything customers want when they want it means our behind the scenes operations have to be world class.

“This new site at Truganina will service all of our stores across Victoria providing a vital service for our customers as well as much needed employment for Victorians in this part of the State. Our ongoing programme of opening new stores and refreshing others is good news for customers and communities. It will mean an investment in the Victorian economy of more than \$245 million over the next 18 months with every new store we open creating approximately 100 new jobs for local people”

Premier Baillieu welcomed Coles' investment in the State: "The new Coles distribution centre is a significant new investment for Victoria," Mr Baillieu said.

"Not only will the Truganina facility deliver hundreds of new job opportunities during the construction phase and through ongoing roles, it will also provide a welcome boost to the Victorian economy and the local region for years to come.

"The retail sector is Victoria's second largest industry, employing more than 320,000 people across the State.

"The jobs being created by new hubs like this distribution centre add to Victoria's vital jobs profile which has seen employment rise by over 22,000 since the Coalition Government was elected, representing more than 40 per cent of the jobs created nationally."

The Truganina distribution centre will replace Coles' current site at Altona which is no longer able to service the growing number of stores relying on it and cannot be expanded because of physical restrictions at the site. All team members from Altona will be offered positions at the new distribution centre.

About Coles Truganina distribution Centre:

The new distribution centre measures 80,000sqm – four times the size of the MCG! The construction will require more than 1500 tonnes of steel and 20,000 cubic metres of concrete. When operational it will handle more than 1.5 million cartons of product a week. Coles has invested more than \$80 million in the new distribution centre.

The building boasts environmental features including a rainwater harvesting system collecting up to 300,000 litres of water which is then used in the building for flushing toilets and fire fighting reserves with surplus water made available to the local authority and community groups for watering parks, gardens and other public spaces. New low energy lighting will reduce energy consumption by 50% compared to other similar sites.

For further information, images or interviews please contact Jon Church, Head of Communications on (03) 9829 4008.