



## Modern Slavery Statement and Compliance

Cessnock City Council has a social and legislative requirement to ensure that its suppliers are aware of and are not engaging in practices covered under the Modern Slavery Act (Cth) 2018.

Modern slavery is a serious violation of an individual's dignity and human rights. Exploitative practices including human trafficking, slavery, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage and forced marriage are all considered modern slavery and are serious crimes under Australian law.

- The International Labour Organisation estimates there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery conditions worldwide.
- The commencement of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW), introduces new obligations for councils under the Local Government Act 1993 relating to modern slavery.
- "Modern slavery" is defined in the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW) as any conduct constituting a modern slavery offence within the meaning of that Act and any conduct involving the use of any form of slavery, servitude or forced labour to exploit children or other persons taking place in the supply chains of organisations
- From 1 July 2022, Councils will be required to take reasonable steps to ensure that goods and services procured by and for Council are not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW).
- Commencing from the 2022/23 financial year, each Council will be required to publish in their annual reports:
  - a statement of the action taken by the council in relation to any issue raised by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner during the year concerning the operations of the Council and identified by the Commissioner as being a significant issue, and
  - a statement of steps taken to ensure that goods and services procured by and for the Council during the year were not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW).

Your role in relation to the legislation is to advise if or how you have complied with the Act. A simple statement tabling measures taken i.e. Policy Management would be required or that you are not required to report under the Act due to company expenditure.

Council will review your submission and note accordingly through our Vendor management System VendorPanel.

We thank you for your assistance in relation to this Legislative requirement.

**Craig Wade**

Procurement Coordinator  
Tuesday, 26 April 2022