

## **MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This statement is made pursuant to the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth) and covers the activities of Western Suburbs (N'cle) Leagues Club Ltd ABN 24 000 973 919 (**Wests**) and our controlled entities to assess and address the risk of modern slavery in our business operations and supply chain for the financial year ending 31 January 2022 (**FY2021**). The purpose of this statement is to outline our approach to ensuring Wests has robust frameworks and processes in place to minimise the risk of modern slavery in our business operations and supply chain.

### **2. OUR BUSINESS**

Wests is a Newcastle not-for-profit membership based organisation that provides entertainment, accommodation and dining, function and fitness facilities across the region. At the core of Wests' operation is a dedication to providing quality venues, food and entertainment for our members and guests. Wests is one of the largest private employers in the area, and an economic driver for the Hunter region. Wests is an integral part of the local community and offers substantial support for schools, sporting teams and charities.

### **3. OUR STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS AND SUPPLY CHAIN**

3.1. Wests is a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (**Corporations Act**). Wests' business operations include registered clubs, hospitality, gymnasiums, corporate and administration, and property assets across the Hunter region.

3.2. Wests is a member of ClubsNSW, the peak representational body for the NSW club industry, whose purpose is to lead a sustainable industry, seek to strengthen conditions for those working within the industry and to support the local community we serve. Wests is committed to working with ClubsNSW to ensure ethical commitments to fight modern slavery are being adhered to.

3.3. Wests has two controlled entities, being:

(a) The Executive Inn Pty Limited ABN 82 080 880 691 - a proprietary limited company incorporated and domiciled in Australia under the Corporations Act. Its business operations include hotel accommodation in the Hunter region, and ancillary operations.

(b) Knights Rugby League Pty Limited ABN 83 169 964 523 - a proprietary limited company incorporated and domiciled in Australia under the Corporations Act. Its business operations include an Australian professional rugby league club based in Newcastle, and ancillary operations.

3.4. As at the date of this statement, Wests has over 900 employees and its registered office is 88 Hobart Road, New Lambton, New South Wales.

3.5. Wests' supply chains predominantly relate to the sourcing of goods and services for the provision of food and beverage, hospitality, gaming, hotel accommodation,

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gymnasiums, corporate and administration, and professional rugby league. Where possible, Wests' focus is on local, Australian-based suppliers.

### 4. RISKS OF MODERN SLAVERY PRACTICES

- 4.1. In FY2021, Wests continued to monitor its supply chain to identify potential exposure to modern slavery. We continued to consider and collaborate on new processes that we could implement to reduce the level of risk that arises in connection with modern slavery.
- 4.2. During FY2021, the impact of COVID-19 has continued to be one of our predominant considerations in our risk assessment process. Due to the impact of COVID-19, Wests continued to purchase additional cleaning products and face masks. Wests also sourced bulk supplies of rapid antigen tests from an Australian owned and operated company that specialises in the supply of healthcare PPE and innovative cleaning and hygiene products. This supplier has committed to ethical sourcing and has published its modern slavery statement for its most recent financial year. Wests also continued to engage our contract cleaning services through our appointed local contractor.
- 4.3. As a result of the impact that COVID-19 has had on its business operations, Wests went through a restructure during the previous reporting period. Wests outsources recruitment, marketing and asset management services on an as-needs basis. Specifically, Wests outsources specialist trades to local suppliers.
- 4.4. All of Wests' employees are engaged under common law employment contracts, modern awards or registered industrial instruments, which means all employees are paid in line with or above the national minimum wage. Historically, Wests occasionally engaged contracted security, cleaning, maintenance and kitchen staff on an ad hoc basis and in specific venues only. The large majority of the outsourcing companies engaged by Wests are local and comply with the Australian employment standards.
- 4.5. The majority of Wests' suppliers are Australian based. Through everyday business operations there is also an obvious flow-on effect in the Hunter region as we maintain our operations over eight sites. We do our best to purchase locally when we can, and we provide hundreds of auxiliary positions in this region. However, we recognise that Wests could be indirectly exposed to the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking through our supply chains due to sector and industry risks and geographical risk.
- 4.6. We identified potential risk 'hotspots' in our business due to certain sectors and industries that may have higher modern slavery risks. This is where a local supplier may source a product, such as food products, uniforms and jerseys, building and construction materials, merchandise and furniture, from overseas sources, which may have a record of having modern slavery practices still in place. We source jerseys from an exclusively appointed Ireland-based supplier. In the previous reporting period, Wests obtained written acknowledgement from this supplier of jerseys and apparel, which confirmed it is committed to conducting its business in an ethical manner and will comply with all relevant legislation regarding its environmental, health and safety, fair employment and equality responsibilities. Further, the supplier confirmed it will not

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be subcontracting the delivery on the supply contract and is uniquely positioned to provide a vertically integrated supply chain solution.

- 4.7. Wests has reported 3 orders placed with suppliers based in China for bulk purchases of face masks, gymnasium boxing stands and furniture sliders for stools. These bulk purchases are one-off and are made on an ad hoc basis, yet we acknowledge the geographic risk as this country has a higher risk of modern slavery. Wests received a written acknowledgement from one of those suppliers that it is aware of modern slavery risks and will comply with all modern slavery laws. Although the number of orders is low, Wests acknowledges the risk and will continue to improve in this area.
- 4.8. During FY2021, we continued to collaborate on how to implement a new process whereby we require commitment and acknowledgement from a larger base of suppliers of Wests. Specifically, Wests would require the supplier to acknowledge and accept that it is aware of modern slavery and will comply with all modern slavery laws and take reasonable steps to ensure there is no modern slavery in its supply chains. Noting the scope and diversity of Wests' business operations, implementation is a significant step and requires multiples rounds of consultation to ensure strategy is targeted and effective.

### 5. ACTIONS TO ADDRESS MODERN SLAVERY RISKS

5.1. Wests has five defined core values including:

- (a) people and safety;
- (b) community;
- (c) innovation and change;
- (d) business growth; and
- (e) service.

Through these values, we pride ourselves on professionalism and aim to exceed customer expectations, and as such actively reduce the risk of modern slavery exposure in our operation and supply chains.

- 5.2. As at the date of this statement, Wests has registered its modern slavery statement for the financial years ending 31 January 2020 and 31 January 2021 with the Australian Border Force and have made these statements available on Wests' website.
- 5.3. Wests has an established Modern Slavery Working Group which is composed of representatives across Wests and its controlled entities. The Working Group's aim is to continue to identify key risks and requirements, oversee integration into existing compliance functions and increase business awareness of modern slavery risks.
- 5.4. Wests has an established Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee which is composed of multiple Directors of Wests, with invitation extended to the CEO and various executive-level representatives of Wests. This committee meets bi-annually (or as required) to consider any matters relating to audit and risk management.

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- 5.5. Wests has a Remuneration and Nominations Committee which is composed of multiple Directors of Wests, with invitation extended to the CEO and the Group Chief People Officer. This committee meets bi-annually (or as required), and its duties include:
- (a) reviewing matters relating to remuneration, employment and work, health and safety within Wests;
  - (b) developing a fair and consistent process for setting employee remuneration, using external consultants; and
  - (c) ensuring compliance with relevant industrial legislation.
- 5.6. Wests utilises the 'Purchase Plus' procurement system across its operations which provides a transparent and accountable method between its employees and suppliers to order and receive products.
- 5.7. Wests has a number of internal policies to ensure we are conducting business in an ethical and transparent manner, which include:
- (a) Code of Conduct: A set of guiding principles and minimum standards of behaviour that apply to all of our business activities and includes core principles such as safety, compliance and respect for people. In FY2021, a comprehensive online training module was rolled out to all employees across the Group, with a 61% completion rate.
  - (b) Whistleblower Policy: All employees and directors are made aware of their rights to disclose any wrongdoing, and the policy provides protection for employees who disclose any such information.
  - (c) Diversity and Inclusion Policy: A framework to embed and support a diverse workforce and inclusive workplace for all of our employees. It details our commitment to building a workforce that is representative of the communities in which we live, work, and serve.
  - (d) Supplier Procedure: If a new supplier is introduced to Wests, the person requesting the use of a new supplier must confirm it does not have any conflict of interest, and that person must disclose any existing relationship with that supplier. This information must be recorded on our New Supplier Request Form. Also, gifts from suppliers cannot be personally accepted by our employees.
- 5.8. These established practices and policies demonstrate our commitment to address modern slavery risks, as well as to ensure Wests have fair and ethical practices in place and is compliant with workplace laws.

### **6. ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ACTIONS TAKEN**

In FY2021, Wests did not identify any instances of modern slavery or human trafficking associated directly with its own operations. No modern slavery or human trafficking concerns were raised with Wests about customers through our feedback channels. Also, in FY2021 there were no complaints through our whistleblower policy. Should any such concerns be identified, we would conduct any required investigations in accordance with regulatory requirements, policy and procedures.


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### 7. CONSULTATION

In FY2021, the Modern Slavery Working Group continued to consider and assess modern slavery risks across the business, with focus on next stages of implementation of acknowledgement and commitment at the supplier level. The purpose of the working group is to take a collaborative approach by facilitating regular and ongoing consultation between Wests and its controlled entities, and to prepare this statement. The working group will also consult with the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee.

This statement was approved by the Board of Directors of Western Suburbs (N'cle) Leagues Club Ltd ABN 24 000 973 919.

Date: 7.6.22  
Signature:   
Full name: GEOFF CORBETT  
Title: DIRECTOR