

December 2021
Modern Slavery Statement



Introduction

A message from our Chief Executive Officer



The Leed Group of companies is committed to working with our clients to deliver sustainable infrastructure that enriches communities and creates a better tomorrow.

To achieve this goal, we are dedicated to the highest standards of business ethics, and to addressing human rights abuses and the risks of modern slavery in our business and supply chains.

This statement addresses our important obligations under the Australian *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth). It describes the actions we have taken to address modern slavery risks and outlines the procedures we have in place. It also sets out our plans over the next 12 months to improve our processes and contribute to driving change within our industry.



Craig Laslett
Chief Executive Officer
Leed Group of Companies

What is modern slavery?

Modern slavery is an umbrella term that includes forced labour, human trafficking, debt bondage, forced or servile marriage, and the sale and exploitation of children.

What these concepts have in common is that the victims are in situations of exploitation which they cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, deception, abuse of power, or deception.

The Global Slavery Index 2018 found that:

- in 2016, 40.3 million people were living in modern slavery
- modern slavery affects every country in the world
- women and girls were disproportionately represented, with 71% of victims being female
- over 50% of victims live in the Asia-Pacific region, a common source for many Australian supply chains
- there are approximately 15,000 people living in modern slavery within Australia.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Leed Group acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures; and to Elders past, present and emerging.

We commit to continued listening and learning from First Nations voices and to working in partnership to create better experiences together for a better tomorrow.

Criteria 1 and 2

Reporting entities

The reporting entities

This Modern Slavery Statement is made on behalf of the Leed Group of Companies in the Australian *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth).

The statement applies to all the entities which are members of the Leed Group, namely:

- Leed Engineering and Construction Pty Ltd
- Leed Holding Pty Ltd
- LGI Holdings Pty Ltd
- AC Rental Pty Ltd
- GMA Corporation Pty Ltd
- NWIC Pty Ltd.

Operations

Leed is an award-winning, privately-owned group of engineering and construction companies delivering key infrastructure projects and recognised for our particular expertise in the water sector. Founded in South Australia in 2001, we grew rapidly to become a national civil infrastructure contractor, delivering projects throughout metropolitan, regional and remote areas of Australia.

Our project growth into other states led to us opening offices in Bendigo in 2007, Melbourne in 2009 and Cooma in 2020. Leed now has over 160 staff and an extensive fleet of plant and equipment that allow us to 'self-perform' on the majority of our projects.

We have an excellent reputation for delivering projects on time and working in a collaborative way with clients, stakeholders and the wider community. Our experience, capability, financial stability, proven team and outstanding track record make Leed an ideal partner for complex infrastructure projects.

Criteria 1 and 2 (continued)

Supply chain

During the financial year ending 30 June 2020, Leed procured a range of goods and services including:

- professional services, specialist subcontractors and trades
- construction equipment and machinery
- raw construction materials including pipes, valves, fittings, pre-cast concrete structures, asphalt, fill, etc.
- mobile fleet of heavy equipment and vehicles, including parts
- personal protective equipment and clothing
- cleaning and security services
- mechanical and electrical equipment
- office equipment and stationery
- energy and utilities
- information technology equipment and services
- labour hire
- fuel
- accommodation
- food and beverages.

Founded
2001

4
Offices

160+
Staff

1037
Suppliers
FY2021

Criterion 3

Risks

Operational risk

We recognise that by virtue of our direct employment of many workers, Leed may cause, contribute to or be directly linked to modern slavery risks. However, we believe the risk of modern slavery in our workforce is low due to the strict regulations and employment laws with which we are required to comply, and our highly developed management systems.

Supply chain risk

Leed only delivers projects within Australia. We have a strong emphasis on the engagement of local small to medium enterprises and the use of products and supplies that are locally manufactured or purchased through local suppliers who comply with all required legislation and regulations. This minimises the supply chain risks of modern slavery as well as maximising investment in to the local economy.

In the 2021 Financial Year, Leed has only engaged with one direct supplier not based in Australia. As the majority of our direct suppliers are based in Australia, a low risk jurisdiction for modern slavery, we believe that the risk of modern slavery in our supply chain is low, but we recognise that risks may exist in the second and subsequent tiers of our supply chain.

Sector risks

Leed recognises that certain industries and suppliers within Australia have a higher risk of modern slavery in their supply chains. Examples include:

- food services
- cleaning services
- medical, PPE and workwear supply
- IT and telecommunications equipment
- stationery supply
- casual labour hire.

These areas represent a relatively small proportion of Leed's overall operations.

Criterion 4

Mitigating risks

Leed manages modern slavery and human trafficking risks in our supply chain by:

- recognising our modern slavery commitments and obligations at a corporate policy level
- ensuring that all employees have a written contract of employment that explains our employees' rights and entitlements at law
- identifying and working with companies that are known to us and that have standards that are aligned with our own
- using subcontractor declarations to ensure alignment with subcontractors and identify potential risks
- managing subcontractors and suppliers in accordance with our highly developed, accredited management systems
- establishing clear expectations with our supply chain
- conducting due diligence reviews of suppliers
- incorporating terms and conditions relating to modern slavery in awarded contracts. Our contracts specifically require our suppliers to act in accordance with all relevant legislation and regulations.
- conducting reviews of suppliers during performance to identify potential issues.

COVID-19 considerations

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the potential exposure to modern slavery risks through restricting supply chain options, increasing timeframes and making due diligence and supplier assessment more difficult.

Leed's managed approach to COVID-19 considers procurement and supply chain issues including modern slavery and is subject to continuous improvement in order to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on our ability to meet our modern slavery commitments.

Planned initiatives

In the next 12 months, Leed will also:

- update its suite of Corporate Policies to better address modern slavery, outlining Leed's commitment to preventing, identifying and reporting modern slavery risks within our operations and supply chains
- revise existing subcontractor agreements/contracts to expand upon our expectations with regard to modern slavery
- undertake modern slavery training for all employees to assist in identifying practices which may constitute modern slavery, manage risks and ensure compliance.

Criterion 5

Assessing effectiveness

We recognise that we are at an early stage of our efforts to address modern slavery across our business and supply chains and are still developing our systems and processes to assess and mitigate modern slavery risk.

Over the next 12 months we will extend and improve our existing accredited systems to better address modern slavery and to assess the effectiveness of our approach. This will include:

- leveraging our existing internal audit processes to also examine operational and supply chain modern slavery risks
- improving our supplier engagement processes and contracts
- a review of project management templates to ensure consistency with Leed's forthcoming corporate policy updates addressing modern slavery
- expanding our confidential complaint and grievance mechanism to allow individuals to also voice concerns about modern slavery and human rights issues
- the establishment of a Modern Slavery Risk Register
- assessing the possibility of establishing Key Performance Indicators for moderns slavery reporting
- review and revise our Supplier Code of Conduct to clarify our standards for our suppliers in relation to modern slavery, human rights, sustainability and other relevant issues.

Other planned initiatives to assess the effectiveness of our actions include:

- a survey of Leed's suppliers to identify potential risks of modern slavery and regulatory non-compliance.
- regular, ongoing reporting to the Leed Board on modern slavery risks and compliance.
- project self-assessments.

Criterion 6 and 7

Consultation/Other information

Consultation

This Modern Slavery Statement was developed in consultation with each of the reporting entities listed in Criteria 1 – Reporting entities.

All relevant areas of our businesses have been made aware of our commitments and planned actions to combat modern slavery in all areas of our operations and supply chain. This communications process will be supported by specific training and regular communications.

Approval of Statement

This Modern Slavery Statement was approved by Leed's Board of Directors on 22 December 2021, in accordance with the requirements of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Cth).



Andrew Millar
Board Chair
Leed Group of Companies

“*Leed is dedicated to the highest standards of business ethics, and to addressing human rights abuses and the risks of modern slavery in our business and supply chains.*”

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