

# Modern Slavery Statement

## FY 2023

The Borg Group has prepared this Modern Slavery Statement for the financial year ending 30 June 2023 in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth). This statement is produced as a joint statement under the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) to cover Borg Manufacturing Pty Ltd and Red Dot Holdings Pty Ltd (Borg). References to the Borg Group should be taken to include entities owned or controlled by Borg.



The Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) defines the term 'modern slavery' by reference to the Commonwealth Criminal Code, the "Trafficking Protocol" and the "Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention". The concept includes various forms of human trafficking and worker and child exploitation, usually involving some form of coercion, threat or deception.

It is estimated that there are 50 million people in modern slavery on any given day, with 12 million of those children<sup>1</sup>. These numbers have increased in both real and relative terms since 2016.

In its recently released report Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage, the

International Labour Organisation (ILO) recognised that the challenge of forced labour is too big, and its myriad root causes too complex, for national governments or other stakeholders to address on their own<sup>2</sup> and warned against businesses or governments

looking to go-it-alone<sup>3</sup>. True progress will only be achieved if all organisations act to identify, mitigate, and prevent, modern slavery and other human rights abuses in their operations and supply chains.



# the Challenge

The Borg Group is committed to playing its part in the joint global effort to combat modern slavery, by continuing to evolve and continuously improve on its approach to addressing the risks modern slavery in its supply chain and operations.

<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid. p 23.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid. p 94.  
<sup>1</sup> Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, 2022, p 19.

# about The Borg Group

The Borg Group is a leader in Australian Manufacturing. The Borg Group operates several related businesses, including Borg Manufacturing, Crossmuller, Woodchem and Polytac Malaysia. These business are supported by manufacturing and distribution sites around Australia and Malaysia with over 2000 employees.

## Borg Manufacturing

Borg is a manufacturer of Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF), Particleboard and associated products, suitable for a range of joinery applications in kitchens, living areas, bathrooms, laundries, wardrobes, home offices, furniture and commercial spaces.

Borg Manufacturing is a leader in Australian manufacturing, with four major manufacturing sites located in Mount Gambier, Oberon, Charnhaven and Somersby. These sites are supported by fifteen distribution sites around Australia.

Crossmuller divisions with over 300 workers to assist in enhancing state-of-the-art technologies, specially curated for the Borg group of companies.

## Woodchem

Based in Oberon, Woodchem produces and distributes a range of products based on formaldehyde, urea, and melamine. The principal products are resins, which are used in the manufacture of Particleboard and Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF) for the use in the building and furniture industries.

## Polytec Malaysia

Polytec Malaysia specialises in manufacturing Compact Laminate and High Pressure Laminate. These laminates are produced from high-quality cellulose paper, impregnated with in-house developed resin, and processed under high temperature and pressure. These products are then utilised in our Australian manufacturing processes.

## Crossmuller

Crossmuller specialise in end-to-end industrial manufacturing and automation systems. With a comprehensive team experienced in most forms of manufacturing and automation, Crossmuller has the resources and capability to deliver world-class manufacturing facilities, and automation solutions.

The Borg Group's business also means its supply chain is largely dominated by entities within the group. However, The Borg Group sources a portion of its raw materials, engineering machinery and wood-based products from offshore.

The Borg Group is committed to minimising waste and maximising efficiency and undertakes a series of sustainability measures via circular resource recovery initiatives. Not only is this cost-effective, but it also allows for affordable products and services and benefits the environment. Ensuring the production of the highest quality product in the most cost-effective manufacturing processes is integral to The Borg Group's intent of delivering superior value to its customers.

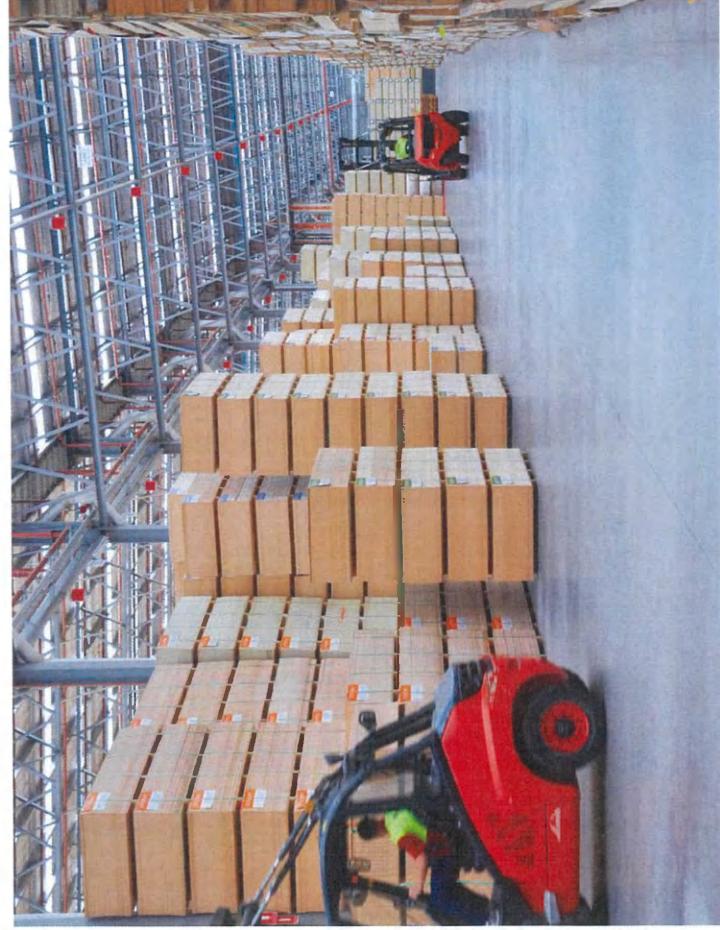
In addition to its circular economy initiatives, the vertical integration of



<sup>4</sup> By reference to the list of developing countries as declared by the Minister for Foreign Affairs for the purposes of the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme established by the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

# identifying The Borg Group's Modern Slavery Risks

In order to recognise the practices that may constitute modern slavery and identify where these may occur, The Borg Group have completed an initial scoping exercise to identify which parts of its entities and operations may involve modern slavery risks.



## OPERATIONAL

As suggested by the United Nations guiding principles, we have focused on potential 'hotspots' where modern slavery is most likely to arise, for example high risk services or geographic locations.

Research shows that activities such as IT procurement, sourcing of promotional merchandise and facilities management (such as cleaning and building maintenance), for example all give rise to the risk of modern slavery. High risk geographies can include conflict-affected zones, countries where there is a weak rule of law, high corruption or a significant population of migrant workers. We will continue to focus on achieving continual improvement in our ability to identify, manage, address and remediate modern slavery risks and impacts.



## SUPPLY CHAIN

We consider the risk of modern slavery in our Australian supply-chain to be low. However, The Borg Group does engage with several international suppliers operating in high-risk sectors such as manufacturing and raw material production.

The risk of modern slavery is greater when sourcing through:

- low cost countries;
- conflict-affected geographies; and
- private raw material producers.

These areas only form a very small part of The Borg Group's overall approach to engaging personnel.

# actions taken to Address Those Risks

## OPERATIONAL

In FY2020, The Borg Group developed a Modern Slavery Policy to ensure compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth). The policy is reviewed on an annual basis.

- Employees involved in the recruitment process have completed our modern slavery training.
- We have developed a training program based on our Modern Slavery policy.
- Our Modern Slavery statement and policy are included in our induction for all new sales employees throughout the country.

We undertake a yearly internal payroll audit to ensure all our employees are employed in line with minimum employment entitlements as stipulated by the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) and any relevant Award. Our payroll is also externally audited throughout the year.

## SUPPLY CHAIN



### Policies & Procedures

The Borg Group Modern Slavery Policy forms part of its broader Corporate Social Responsibility strategy. The Borg Group has several policies and procedures under this strategy that set out its commitment to human rights, including with respect to modern slavery:

- Grievances Policy
- EEO, Affirmative Action, Discrimination, Harassment and Workplace Bullying Policy
- Gender Equality Policy
- Modern Slavery Policy
- Whistleblower Policy

**Labour Hire**  
As a business we do not utilise the service of labour hire companies in a large scale manner. They do not form a major part of our workforce or our recruitment strategy. However, any labour hire company we engage with agrees to terms of service with us that guarantee all minimum award rates and entitlements are adhered to.

Anyone who is working in Australia under a temporary visa has their working rights confirmed via the Department of Home Affairs both at the pre-employment stage and during their employment with The Borg Group. Anyone that does not have working rights within Australia will not be employed with The Borg Group.

Key supply chain and purchasing employees have also completed our modern slavery training. We have conducted a review into the operations of several of our major external suppliers and their efforts to remove risks of Modern Slavery from their operations. This review did not uncover any concerns surrounding exposure to breaches of the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth) or evidence of Slavery within our supply chain.

The Borg Group undertook spot checks on several suppliers during the reporting period. These spot checks focus on a sample of organisations taken from The Borg Group's largest suppliers and include a review of their modern slavery statements and an assessment of their performance with their modern slavery obligations.

# assessing our Effectiveness

In assessing the effectiveness of the actions taken, The Borg Group reviewed the following:

- The results of our modern slavery spot checks.
- The number of instances that an employee raised a potential modern slavery issue under the Modern Slavery Policy.
- The effectiveness of our internal investigation and response to such instances.

The Statutory Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2018, published by the Attorney-General's Department in May 2023.

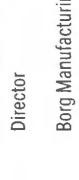
- The Modern Slavery Statements of comparable businesses.
- The effectiveness and awareness of our Modern Slavery Policy and Statement throughout our business.



# Consultation

This Statement has been reviewed and approved by the Boards of Borg Manufacturing Pty Limited and Red Dot Holdings Pty Ltd.

  
Michael Borg  
Director

  
John Borg  
Director  
Borg Manufacturing Pty Ltd  
December 2023

This statement for FY23 was largely developed by representatives from the People and Culture and Supply Chain business units in consultation with The Borg Group employees. Additional contributions were made by the legal and commercial teams, along with the Chief Executive Officers of Borg Manufacturing, Woodchem and Crossmiller.

On publication, this statement will be communicated to relevant employees and senior management throughout the organisation.



