

## MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT

### 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 (**West's**) 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 2025 (FY2024). The purpose of this statement is to outline our approach to ensuring West's has robust frameworks and processes in place to minimise the risk of modern slavery in our business operations and supply chain.

### 2. OUR BUSINESS

West's 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 West's' operation is a dedication to providing quality venues, food and entertainment for our members and guests. West's is one of the largest private employers in the area, and an economic driver for the Hunter region. West's 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. West's is a public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia under the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) (**Corporations Act**). West's' business operations include registered clubs, hospitality, gymnasiums, corporate and administration, and property assets across the Hunter region.

3.2. West's 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. West's is committed to working with ClubsNSW to ensure ethical commitments to fight modern slavery are being adhered to.

3.3. West's has two controlled entities, being:

- (a) The Executive Inn Pty Limited ABN 82 080 880 691 (**TEI**) - 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 (**Knights**) - 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, West's has over 880 employees and its registered office is 88 Hobart Road, New Lambton, New South Wales.

3.5. West's' 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 FY2024, Wests continued to monitor its supply chain to identify potential exposure to modern slavery and consider new processes that we could implement to reduce the level of risk that arises in connection with modern slavery.
- 4.2. During FY2024, Wests continued to outsource recruitment, events, marketing and asset management services on an as-needs basis. Specifically, Wests outsources specialist trades to local suppliers.
- 4.3. All of Wests' employees are engaged under common law employment contracts, modern awards and/or registered industrial instruments, which means all employees are paid in line with or above the national minimum wage. Wests occasionally engage 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.
- 4.4. The majority of Wests' suppliers are based in Australia. Through our everyday business operations, there is also a noticeable flow-on effect in the Hunter region as we maintain our operations over nine major sites. We do our best to purchase locally when possible, providing hundreds of auxiliary positions in this area. However, we recognise that Wests could be indirectly exposed to the risk of modern slavery through our supply chains, due to sector and industry risks as well as geographical factors.
- 4.5. We continue to review current procurement process and procedures and monitor the potential risk 'hotspots' in our business due to certain sectors and industries that may have higher modern slavery risks. Where there is a potential for real risk, our procurement manager will request a copy of that third party's modern slavery statement or other documentation to be informed and understand that party's business practices are in order to reduce risk and exposure to Wests.
- 4.6. In FY2024, TEI implemented a modern slavery framework across its three hotels standard terms of accommodation, by way of including its standard modern slavery clause whereby it requires contractual commitment from all guests at the time of booking. This position was also adopted by NEX across its terms of engagement for all bookings at its exhibition and conference centre. Further, Knights continues to include in its major merchandise supply agreement and all sponsor agreements its modern slavery clause, which requires contractual commitment from sponsors to adhere to all modern slavery laws and minimise risk in its own supply chains.
- 4.7. Wests now procures bulk orders of office stationery through a single global importer and distributor of goods, having also obtained a Modern Slavery Prohibition Policy from this supplier. Additionally, Wests also uses one central supplier for other merchandise, instead of making ad hoc purchases. Again, it has obtained a Code of Vendor Conduct and Ethical Sourcing Policy from this supplier.



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### **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 to 31 January 2024 (inclusive) with the Australian Border Force, and has made the most recent statement available on Wests' website.

5.3. Wests has a Modern Slavery Working Group which is composed of a representative from key business units across Wests. The Working Group's aim is to monitor and 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.

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 and 'Lightyear' across its operations which provides a transparent and accountable method between its employees and suppliers to order and receive products and for accounting record keeping.

5.7. As set out in the Group's Recruitment Policy, all offers of employment made by the Group are conditional on clear results of a background check for that relevant person. This includes positions filled by external recruitment agencies. Furthermore, a

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Criminal History Check is conducted on all final candidates, all volunteers and students, as well as all existing employees hired or promoted within the Group.

5.8. Wests has a number of internal policies to ensure we are conducting business in an ethical and transparent manner, which include:

- (a) **Respect in the Workplace Policy:** Details Wests' commitment to providing a safe, inclusive and respectful workplace, free from all forms of bullying, harassment and victimisation.
- (b) **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.
- (c) **Corporate Induction Program:** Provides education about ethical purchasing and modern slavery to all new employees.
- (d) **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.
- (e) **Diversity, Equity 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.
- (f) **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.

5.9. In addition to its internal policies, in FY2024, Wests implemented the following training modules for its employees:

- (a) **Ethical Purchasing Curriculum** online module was released to relevant employees with a completion rate of 67% achieved for FY2024. This module provides education on modern slavery and instructions for identifying and reporting modern slavery risks in connection with the workplace.
- (b) **Code of Conduct** online training module to all employees across the Group, with a 95% completion rate achieved for FY2024.
- (c) **Respectful Workplace Training** was co-facilitated by an external training provider and undertaken by 52 managers and supervisors across the Group. This training was aimed at educating around psychosocial risk hazards, sexual harassment, harassment, bullying and discrimination in the workplace and reporting avenues and obligations.
- (d) **Modern Slavery Act Awareness** training is available to all employees, which they can access via Wests online learning suite.

5.10. Also, in May 2024, Wests lodged its annual public report with Workplace Gender Equality Agency, communicated this report to employees and published it on Wests' website.

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5.11. Supplementary to the Knights' Reconciliation Action Plan (**RAP**) launched in November 2023, which articulates the steps we will take over the next two years to foster reconciliation in all its forms, we are developing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement strategy to implement across the Group as a whole. This proposed procurement strategy aims to create a more equitable and inclusive economy and business practices that recognise and support the unique contributions of Indigenous-owned business and people.

5.12. 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 FY2024, 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 FY2024 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.

### 7. CONSULTATION

In FY2024, Wests continued to consider and assess modern slavery risks across the business. The purpose of the working group is to take a collaborative approach between Wests and its controlled entities, and to prepare this statement.

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

Date: 29th MAY 2025  
Signature:   
Full name: GEOFF CURN.  
Title: President.