

Modern Slavery Act 2018

Modern Slavery Statement FY20

Coliban Water 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

1. Coliban Water's Introduction

The Modern Slavery Statement is provided as a statement under section 14(1) of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* (Act) for the period from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 (statement) for Coliban Water ACN 149 633 116.

Coliban Region Water Authority was established on 1 July 1992 under the *Water Act 1989* (Vic) (the Act) as a Regional Urban Water Authority. The Authority became the Coliban Region Water Corporation on 1 July 2007 and operates as Coliban Water. Our shareholder is the Victoria Government. Our responsible Minister for the period of 1 July 2019 until 30 June 2020 was The Hon. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Water.

2. Coliban Water Modern Slavery Statement

Our purpose is to deliver, water services for community needs now and into the future.

We provide urban water and wastewater services in accordance with the provisions of Part 8- Water supply and Part 9- Sewerage of the *Water Act 1989* (Vic). Rural customers are supplied under Part 4 Division 2 Section 51 of the Act.

Our services include:

- Water Harvesting
- Water Storage
- Water Treatment
- Water Distribution
- Urban wastewater collection
- Treatment, re-use and disposal, including trade waste
- Water purchase
- Recycled Water
- Rural water supply

3. Coliban Water's Commitment to the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*

Coliban Water is committed to ensuring that there is no form of modern slavery or human trafficking within our organisation or supply chains.

We are committed to ensure that our approach to tackling modern slavery in our own business and throughout our supply chains is consistent with Coliban Water's disclosure obligations under the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*.

This statement sets actions undertaken in 2019/20 to ensure there was no modern slavery in our business and that in so far as possible, our suppliers hold the same ethos.

Coliban Water's commitment to tackling modern slavery can be demonstrated through our journey to date:

- Modern Slavery capacity building through participation in VicWater Sustainable Procurement Project.
- Development of the Coliban Water Modern Slavery Statement.

4. Coliban Water Business

Coliban Region Water Authority, a Regional Urban Water Authority under the *Water Act 1989* (Vic) is committed to ensuring that its staff and any supply chains are not subject to behaviour or threats that may amount to modern slavery.

The assets we manage to deliver our services include a net book value of infrastructure assets, property, plant and equipment of \$1.57 billion, covering:

- 504 kilometres of rural channels and pipelines
- 2014 kilometres of sewer mains
- 34 raw water reservoirs and service basins.
- 2378 kilometres of water mains (potable and non-potable)
- 180 wastewater pump stations
- 16 water treatment plants
- 70 water pump stations
- 147 kilometres of water distribution pipelines and channel system
- 1 recycled water factory
- 57 kilometres of recycled water infrastructure
- 16 water treatment plants
- 14 Water reclamation plants

5. Coliban Water Supply Chain Risk

Coliban Water's involvement with the VicWater Sustainable Procurement Project, identified the key risk areas, to our business are:

- Cleaning Contracts
- Engineer Consultants
- Water Treatment- Diversity and inclusion

Upon further investigations through desktop assessments and surveys, cleaning was identified as the highest risk category to our business and is being managed through our robust risk management framework.

6. Coliban Water Policies and Procedures

The employment and employment relations policies at Coliban Water help to ensure all recruitment policies are consistent and applied fairly and reduce the risk of modern slavery for our people.

All organisational policies are assessed for against the *Human Rights Act 2006* (Vic), prior to being applied.

7. Coliban Water Risk Effectiveness

Coliban Water utilises an obligation compliance system to access and monitor the obligation requirements of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018*. Managers are delegated responsibility for maintaining and reviewing their requirements obligations as they apply to their functions. Non-compliances are reported to our risk committee on an on-going basis.

We understand we are at the beginning of our journey in tackling modern slavery and will be reviewing this commitment every two years to ensure its effectiveness.

Our Board of Directors is responsible for the oversight and approval of our Modern Slavery Statement.

8. Coliban Water Future Commitments

Our communities, customers, people and business were all impacted by COVID-19 in 2020. This unfortunately impacted the progress of Modern Slavery updates and face-to-face awareness sessions with our supply chain, however plans are underway to recommence engagement in 2020/21.

As part of our response to COVID-19 and awareness of the pressures to our direct supply chain, we implemented paying our supply chain invoices in less than 10 business days to assist with cashflow in these businesses and limit the risk of modern slavery.

We recognise that to eradicate modern slavery, dedication is required to make a difference to people's lives and as such we plan to progress the following actions across the 2021 and 2022 financial years with the guidance from a modern slavery working group representing cross-functional areas of the business.

Building our understanding and capabilities

- Develop and deliver a training program for our people and increase their understanding and awareness of modern slavery risks in our operations and supply chain.

Improving our processes

- Embed the principles of the *Modern Slavery Act 2018* into our policies and procedures.
- Develop a performance matrix to monitor the effectiveness of our actions.

Enhanced engagement with our suppliers

- Develop and rollout training to selected suppliers.

This statement has been prepared in consultation with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) and approved by the Coliban Water Board (principal governing body). We aim to continually improve our approach to identify, assess and manage modern slavery risk in our operations and supply chain.



Ms Lucy Roffey, Chairperson, Coliban Water Board

Date: 20 September 2021