



SSROC Procurement

Modern Slavery Statement

27 March 2025

Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

SSROC Modern Slavery Statement

Introduction

Southern Sydney Regional Association of Councils (SSROC) is committed to ensuring that modern slavery, in all its forms, does not exist within our business or supply chain. This statement outlines our efforts to address and prevent modern slavery within our organisation, as well as the steps we are taking to ensure compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018 and section 438ZE of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Our Business

SSROC is a non-for-profit incorporated association of 12 local councils, originally established in 1986. SSROC provides a forum through which our member councils can interact, exchange ideas, and work collaboratively to solve regional issues, aggregate common goods and services for procurement and contribute to the future sustainability of the region. We advocate in the interests of our region to strengthen the role of Local Government in regional affairs, particularly where affected by Australian or NSW Government policy.

Our Commitment

We recognise the significant impact that modern slavery can have on individuals, communities, and the integrity of business operations. SSROC is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards in our operations and strives to conduct business with integrity and transparency.

We are committed to:

- Preventing modern slavery and human trafficking within our operations and supply chain.
- Raising awareness of modern slavery risks among our employees, councils, suppliers, and partners.
- Working with stakeholders to eliminate practices that may contribute to modern slavery.

Policies and Procedures

To help prevent modern slavery, we have implemented the following policies and practices:



1. **Modern Slavery Policy:** Our Sustainable Procurement Policy sets out our approach to preventing modern slavery and describes the measures we take to ensure that we do not knowingly engage with any organization or individual involved in forced labour or human trafficking.
2. **Supplier Code of Conduct:** We require our suppliers to adhere to our Supplier Code of Conduct, which outlines expectations regarding working conditions, wages, and treatment of workers. Our suppliers must comply with all applicable laws and regulations including labour standards.
3. **Due Diligence and Risk Assessment:** We conduct regular due diligence and risk assessments of our supply chain. This includes evaluating our suppliers' practices to identify and mitigate any risks related to modern slavery and human trafficking.
4. **Employee Awareness:** We provide information sessions on identifying and reporting modern slavery to all our employees.
5. **Whistleblowing Mechanism:** We offer a confidential whistleblowing service that allows employees, contractors, and other stakeholders to report concerns about potential modern slavery without fear of retaliation.

Risk Assessment and Due Diligence

We recognise that modern slavery risks exist globally, in certain Australian regions and sectors, especially in industries such as manufacturing, agriculture, construction, and logistics. As such, we continually assess the risk of modern slavery across our operations and supply chain. Our due diligence procedures include:

- Conducting background checks on potential suppliers and partners.
- Reviewing supply chain contracts to ensure compliance with Modern Slavery Commissioner guidelines.
- Engaging in direct dialogue with suppliers and requiring regular reporting on their labour practices.

Looking Ahead

We are committed to improving our efforts to combat modern slavery in the coming years. This includes:

- Continuing to strengthen our due diligence and supplier monitoring processes.
- Engaging in collaborative efforts with industry partners, Councils, and other stakeholders to share best practices and further reduce risks.
- Expanding our knowledge, increasing awareness through our sessions of modern slavery across all levels of our organisation.



Conclusion

SSROC is committed to eradicating modern slavery from our business and supply chain. We recognise that this is an ongoing effort, and we will continue to improve our procurement policies and practices to ensure that modern slavery has no place in our procurement operations.

Approval Date:	24 October 2025
Approver:	Helen Sloan, CEO
Next Review Date	30 June 2026
Author:	Cathy Dizon
Document Details:	Sustainable Procurement Policy