

**INQUIRY INTO MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2018 AND
ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

Organisation: Deloitte Risk Advisory

Date Received: 9 October 2019

8 October 2019

Hon Shayne Mallard MLC
Chair, Standing Committee on Social Issues
Legislative Council, NSW Parliament

Dear Sir,

Re: Inquiry into the Modern Slavery Act 2018 and associated matters

We would like to thank you for this opportunity to contribute to the inquiry into the Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW Act).

Deloitte has been an active supporter of the development of modern slavery legislation in Australia to prevent the scourge of modern slavery in Australian business operations and supply chains and remediate modern slavery cases. Moreover, we advise Australian businesses that are seeking to revise policies and procedures, conduct risk assessments and improve risk management to identify and respond to modern slavery impacts.

We believe that it is important to ensure that smaller businesses are preventing or remediating modern slavery risks or cases in their operations and supply chains, but equally that larger businesses are not required to prepare and submit duplicate modern slavery statements in Australia to reduce the regulatory burden on business and focus attention of business to risk identification and effective action.

Accordingly, we note with approval that:

1. The draft Modern Slavery Act Amendment Bill does not repeal, amend or replace Section 24(9) of the NSW Act that provides that the NSW Act does not apply if a commercial organisation is subject to corresponding obligations of a prescribed Commonwealth or State law; and,
2. Section 9 of the draft Modern Slavery Regulation 2019 prescribes the Commonwealth Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Commonwealth Act).

The two laws thus complement each other. The Commonwealth Act establishes reporting obligations for reporting entities with at least \$100 million annual consolidated revenue, while the NSW Act creates reporting obligations for commercial organisations of not less than \$50 million total turnover (but not equal to or more than \$100 million total turnover).

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Dobson
Partner

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