

**Submission  
No 1**

## **INQUIRY INTO REVIEW OF THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2018**

**Organisation:** Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union  
(CFMEU) NSW

**Date Received:** 11 September 2023

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11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dr Joe McGirr MP  
Chair  
Modern Slavery Committee  
NSW Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
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SYDNEY NSW 2000  
By email: [modernslavery@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:modernslavery@parliament.nsw.gov.au)

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Dear Dr McGirr,

### **Re: Upper House Inquiry Into The Modern Slavery Act 2018**

On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2023 it was announced<sup>1</sup> that the Modern Slavery Committee had commenced a review into the *Modern Slavery Act 2018 (NSW)*, and a call was made for public submissions. According to the press release the review was being conducted in accordance with the requirements contained in the *Modern Slavery Act* to review the Act within 2 years of its commencement to determine whether its policy objectives remain valid, and whether its terms remain appropriate for securing those objectives.

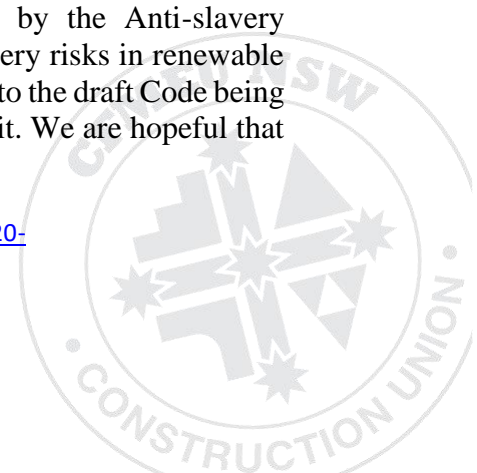
The Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (Construction and General Division) NSW Branch (**the CFMEU**) strongly supports the objectives of the Act, particularly the objectives of combating modern slavery and identifying and addressing modern slavery taking place within supply chains of organisation. Whilst we usually welcome any review into legislation we would suggest that in this case this review is perhaps slightly premature given that the Act only commenced on 1st January 2022. We are also mindful of the fact that the inaugural NSW Anti-slavery Commissioner, Dr James Cockayne, only commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and the 20 member Advisory Panel was announced on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

As the work of the Anti-slavery Commissioner is in its infancy it is difficult to provide any detailed examination or criticism of the work that has occurred to date. The only general criticism we could make is that there appears to be a lack of public awareness of the work of the Anti-slavery Commissioner.

The CFMEU is however aware of the positive steps being taken by the Anti-slavery Commissioner to develop a Code of Practice on managing modern slavery risks in renewable energy value-chains. The CFMEU supports this work and looks forward to the draft Code being published in December 2023 and the opportunity to make comment on it. We are hopeful that

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/other/18393/Media%20Release%20-%20Review%20of%20the%20Modern%20Slavery%20Act%202018.pdf>



the development of such a code may be a blueprint for Codes of Practice for other industries and would welcome the opportunity to be involved in any development work for a code for the building and construction industry.

Yours sincerely,

**Darren Greenfield**  
**State Secretary**

