



#### MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We are very pleased to present ActewAGL's Modern Slavery Statement for 2023. This is our fourth Statement and is one that builds upon the foundation we have established over the past three years to understand, identify, and mitigate modern slavery risks in our business operations and supply chain.

As a major employer in our region and a longstanding, integral part of the community we serve, we have a responsibility to operate to the highest ethical standard, in line with customer and community expectations. Modern slavery in all its forms is unacceptable and we must take whatever steps we can to prevent it.

Over the past year we have continued to review and strengthen our approach to ensure we have a robust framework for managing the risk and impact of modern slavery in our business and supply chain. Elements to this framework include:

- Building the awareness and capability of our people;
- · Continually reviewing and strengthening our internal processes, including whistleblower provisions;
- Enhancing our engagement and assessment of suppliers.

Key improvements we have made in the past twelve months are:

- Collaborating with industry peers to further enhance the industry risk assessment tool to provide greater visibility of vendors and their supply chains;
- Requiring all new suppliers complete a modern slavery risk assessment as part of the onboarding process irrespective of their size;
- Increasing the number of existing vendors undertaking modern slavery risk assessments. Over 500 of our suppliers have now completed risk assessments detailing their supply chains to provide assurance that modern slavery risks are being appropriately identified and managed.

While we have made significant progress to date, we remain fully aware that modern slavery continues to impact the lives of millions of people globally and its elimination requires ongoing commitment and vigilance. We will continue to play our part, investing in our people and processes and working with our suppliers to ensure we effectively identify and address modern slavery risks in all aspects of our business.

This Modern Slavery Statement was approved in November 2023 by the ActewAGL Joint Venture Board.



**Carol Lilley** Chair ActewAGL



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John Knox Chief Executive Officer ActewAGL



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## 1 Identifying the reporting entity

#### **ABOUT ACTEWAGL**

ActewAGL was formed in October 2000 when the Australian Gas Light Company (AGL) and Icon Water Limited (formerly ACTEW Corporation), an ACT Government owned corporation, entered into Australia's first utility joint venture. Today ActewAGL is made up of two partnerships:

- ActewAGL Retail (ABN 46 221 314 841) is owned 50 percent each by Icon Water Limited and AGL Energy Ltd via subsidiary companies. ActewAGL Retail is an electricity and gas retailer within the ACT and parts of NSW.
- ActewAGL Distribution (ABN 76 670 568 688) is owned 50 percent each by Icon Water Limited and Jemena Ltd via subsidiary companies.



We employ approximately 700 people in the Canberra region, with our offices located in the ACT. We recognise the decisions we make have a social and environmental impact on our business, customers and suppliers. We are committed to understanding and minimising the social and environmental consequences of our business operations.



## 2 Structure, Operations & Supply Chain

#### **OUR STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS**

The ActewAGL Joint Venture consists of three main businesses being Evoenergy, ActewAGL Retail and ActewAGL Corporate that includes finance, people, legal, technology and economic regulation.

#### Evoenergy

Evoenergy is part of the ActewAGL Distribution partnership which owns and operates the electricity network in the ACT and gas networks in the ACT and surrounding regions, distributing energy to local residential and business customers. As the ACT's electricity and gas distributor we have a wealth of knowledge and experience in electricity and gas network infrastructure. In total, we own and operate 5,500 kilometres of electricity network supplying over 200,000 electricity customers and around 5000 kilometres of gas mains supplying over 150,000 gas customers.

Evoenergy is a major employer in the Canberra region, we employ over 300 local electricians, engineers, and specialists to operate and manage our energy networks. On the gas side of our business, we work with our contractor Zinfra, to maintain our gas infrastructure across the ACT, Queanbeyan, Jerrabomberra, Bungendore and Nowra.

We're excited about the future of the energy sector in the ACT and we're looking forward to working with the ACT Government, industry, stakeholders and the community to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity and gas networks. We recognise this journey will require changes to our networks, ensuring we meet customers' changing energy needs and expectations with the impacts to affordability, reliability and safety in mind.





#### ActewAGL Retail

ActewAGL Retail is a local electricity and gas retailer, providing energy to the Canberra region and nearby centres in the south-east NSW region including Queanbeyan, Goulburn, Nowra and the South Coast.

As a major employer in the ACT, our complete operations are delivered from the heart of Canberra.

ActewAGL Retail has provided energy to the people of Canberra and the region for more than 100 years. We are a local energy retailer and we live in the community we serve. This gives us a unique ability to stay connected to our customers and community. Our history and position also means we have a responsibility to our community and this responsibility is something we take very seriously.

ActewAGL Retail holds a 50% interest in SolarHub Holdings Pty Ltd, who focuses on retailing residential and commercial solar and battery systems in the ACT and surrounding NSW. SolarHub Holdings Pty Ltd is not a subsidiary of ActewAGL Retail and is therefore not covered by this statement.

#### **OUR SUPPLY CHAIN**

ActewAGL has a diverse supply chain with suppliers across many industries and services. Our purchased goods and services range from large electrical infrastructure, field services, corporate services, information technology and supporting goods.

Risk assessments of our supply chain have been conducted to identify potential modern slavery risks.

The following were considered when undertaking this analysis:

- · Geographic suppliers country of operation and the prevalence of modern slavery
- Sector and industry categories of goods and services purchased
- Vendors internal policies

To date in excess of 500 ActewAGL vendors have completed risk assessments using the Energy Procurement and Supply Associations' (EPSA) Modern Slavery Risk assessment tool. The analysis found no high risk of modern slavery within our supply chain.

#### Key facts on our supply chain:

ActewAGL's supply chain comprises 850 suppliers with an annual spend of \$690m. The majority of the spend (99%) was paid to Australian-based suppliers, noting some of these are subsidiaries of foreign owned entities.

The 1% of international spend was in countries that have medium to low rankings in prevalence and vulnerability to modern slavery. Goods purchased by ActewAGL with the highest risk of modern slavery include apparel clothing and accessories (including safety equipment), electronics as well as offshore labour services.



## 3 Modern Slavery Risk

#### **OUR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

ActewAGL embraces the core areas outlined in the United Nations Global Compact of human rights, labor standards and the environment and anti-corruption.

Our major focus is on human rights, workplace health and safety, environmental management, materiality, supplier management and modern slavery. ActewAGL is committed to building a diverse workforce where employees' individual differences and attributes are respected and valued.

We are committed to our staff and ensuring their physical and mental health. We do not tolerate discrimination, unsafe work practices, fraudulent behaviour, and other inappropriate behaviour. ActewAGL requires employees to align their behaviour and work practices with our Code of Conduct and policies and procedures.

ActewAGL regularly reviews all policies and procedures, continually enhancing and incorporating new developments to ensure they reflect modern practices and emerging trends.

Our policies and procedures which assist in managing sustainability and human rights include the following:

#### Employee Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct demonstrates ActewAGL's commitment to employees and employees' commitment to ActewAGL. It provides guidelines to assist employees to make the right choices when it comes to our culture, customers, business and reputation. The Code of Conduct also ensures employees adhere to our relevant corporate policies and procedures, follow established protocols and comply with all relevant legislation, codes and standards covering ActewAGL's operations.

#### **People Policy**

Our People Policy provides direction and documents ActewAGL's commitment to our employees in establishing a safe, fair, respectful, diverse and flexible environment where people are proud and engaged.

This policy outlines that ActewAGL:

- is committed to the success of all our employees
- treats all people with respect, acts with integrity, honesty and openness
- makes employment decisions fairly
- · values diversity, supports flexibility and promotes an inclusive workplace
- · rewards in a fair and equitable manner
- investigates workplace complaints



#### Whistleblower Procedure

This procedure provides ActewAGL employees and non-employees an avenue to report suspected and actual workplace misconduct. It supports the disclosure and investigation of wrongful or illegal behaviour, including fraud and corruption, and modern slavery offences. It also provides protection to whistle blowers to encourage the disclosure of information related to the aforementioned wrongful or illegal behaviour.

A disclosure can be made by phoning 1800 233 285 or emailing <a href="mailto:actewagl@deloittedigital.com">actewagl@deloittedigital.com</a>

#### **OUR COVID RESPONSE**

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted us all and challenged us to shift and adapt the way we work. This included adapting to remote work where possible, but also supporting our frontline workers to continue to safely maintain and operate.

We implemented a range of initiatives to support our people and the community, including:

- keeping our frontline workers safe by incorporating safeguards into our practices such as providing appropriate personal protective equipment and maintaining social distancing
- providing employees with access to special leave for the purposes of caring for others, self isolation or vaccination
- providing financial support through our hardship program for customers who may have been financially impacted by COVID-19

The flow-on effects from the COVID-19 Pandemic continue to be felt across global supply chains with conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East leading to further disruptions. Like many organisations we observed shipping delays, increased freight costs, capacity constraints and inflation. We regularly engage with our suppliers to better understand the impact of these global events on our supply chain.

#### **KEY SUPPLY CHAIN RISKS**

The following table outlines key risk categories in the Supply Chain:

Product or Service	Type of Risk
Cleaning, Maintenance and Security Services	Nature of sub-contract work limits visibility of contractors' practices (wages, working hours, on-demand work, manual labour)
Clothing and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Lack of transparency in manufacturing and labour processes
Information Technology Services	Limited visibility of offshore labour practices
Electronic Goods	Limited visibility in offshore labour practices, low cost country sourcing, raw materials sourced from high-risk geographies
Equipment and materials	Visibility of labour practices and raw material sourcing

These risks are monitored and mitigated by the Modern Slavery Framework.



## 4 Assessing & addressing Modern Slavery including due diligence & remediation

#### MANAGING MODERN SLAVERY RISKS

ActewAGL has introduced initiatives to reduce the likelihood of modern slavery occurring in our supply chain. We have established a framework and work practices that enable us to monitor and reduce modern slavery risk within our business and supply chains. This year, we continued to enhance these practices and further risk assess our supply chain.



#### **Our Modern Slavery Framework:**

Elements of our Modern Slavery framework include:

Policies and Procedures:

 Corporate policies and procedures updated to address modern slavery, including our People Policy and Whistleblower procedures.

Training and Education:

- Modern slavery training provided to all employees. This training is mandatory and is refreshed biennial. It is also incorporated as part of the new employee induction process.
- The training provides a clear understanding of what modern slavery is and what to do if concerns are identified.

Supply Contracts:

Inclusion of anti-slavery clauses in all new or varied Supplier Contracts. This includes ActewAGL direct labour hire arrangements.



Supplier Code of Conduct:

 Supplier Code of Conduct developed and agreed by new and existing suppliers of ActewAGL. Through this code, ActewAGL reserves the right to verify supplier's compliance with the Code. If it is found that a supplier does not comply, ActewAGL reserves the right to demand corrective measures or to terminate the business relationship.

Modern Slavery Risk Assessment:

- A Risk Assessment tool was developed in collaboration with members of the Energy Procurement and Supply Association (EPSA). This ensures a consistent industry approach to assessment and best practice through collective development and enhancement.
- The Risk Assessment considers:
  - geographic location
  - category of product or service
  - supplier's internal policies
- Where a Risk Assessment identifies improvement opportunities, these are communicated to the supplier for action.

#### Actions taken to assess & address risks:

#### **Risk Assessment:**

- All suppliers with an annual spend greater than \$100,000 have completed a Modern Slavery Risk Assessment.
- Assessments are reviewed annually.
- Where improvement opportunities are identified, these are communicated to the supplier for action.

#### **Process Enhancement:**

- Risk Assessments have been incorporated as mandatory evaluation criteria in the ActewAGL Request for Proposal process.
- Risk Assessments and the Supplier Code of Conduct are now mandatory requirements when onboarding new vendors.

#### Training and Education:

- New employees undertook Modern Slavery and Whistleblower training, as well as Bullying and Harassment training as part of their induction program.
- Existing employees also undertook refresher training in Modern Slavery, Whistleblower as well as Bullying and Harassment during the year.

#### **Contractual Engagement:**

• All new or varied supply contracts included Modern Slavery clauses.



#### Supplier Payment Times Reporting:

- Consolidated systems and processes to effectively identify small businesses within the supply chain and report on payment times as part of our commitment to good practice in procuring goods and services. This helps small business enhance their cash liquidity, ability to operate, pay employees and invest in their business.
- Our payment performance is reported to the Payment Times Reporting Scheme.

#### **Remediation:**

- All new or varied Supply contracts include Modern Slavery remediation and termination clauses.
- Should any examples of modern slavery be identified or reported, our priority is to support those in need by working to remediate the issue.
- As a preventative measure, Risk Assessments are now incorporated as part of the new supplier on-boarding process while also included in our Request for Proposal evaluation processes.

#### Due Diligence:

- In collaboration with the Energy Procurement and Supply Association (EPSA) and Informed 365, risk assessments of major suppliers were conducted requiring vendors to provide details of their:
  - Workforce composition
  - Supply chain
  - ° Business controls
  - ° Procurement processes
  - ° Employment processes
  - Whistle-blower program
- To date over 500 ActewAGL vendors have completed modern slavery risk assessments using the Energy Procurement and Supply Associations' (EPSA) and Informed 365 Modern Slavery Risk assessment tool.

#### Case Study / Risk Identified:

Two United States based software companies refused to agree to ActewAGL Modern Slavery contractual terms and conditions on the basis they have their own complying Modern Slavery programs and statements which are submitted annually to the Australian Government. As a result one agreement was reduced in term while the other, ActewAGL reserves the right to terminate.



## 5 Assessing effectiveness

To ensure our continued satisfaction of mitigating Modern Slavery risks, we:



It is important to reflect on the work that has been done and regularly review our progress. We demonstrate the effectiveness of our actions by:

- maintaining a modern slavery working group with representatives from across the business and externally with industry peers to enable regular engagement and feedback between key areas
- continually reviewing and improving our approach and response to modern slavery risks ensuring we add from our learning and experience
- · tracking the actions taken to address modern slavery risks and measuring their impact
- providing updates to members of our Board through the Safety, Audit and Risk Committee.

#### Modern Slavery Risk Rating

Of 500 vendors assessed, none received a risk rating of high or very high.





## 6 Consultation and Collaboration

#### **CONSULTATION WITH OTHER ENTITIES**

We consult with representatives across the ActewAGL Joint Venture, collaborating on our approach to the analysis of our risk profiles and undertook joint risk assessments of large suppliers to identify our modern slavery risks.

We worked together to review employment conditions that focus on the rights and wellbeing of our employees, including the labour standards articulated through our respective enterprise agreements.

We agreed our proposed approaches to including modern slavery clauses in our procurement and contractual documentation to provide a consistent message to our supply chains.

#### **INDUSTRY COLLABORATION**

#### Energy Procurement and Supply Association (EPSA)

We collaborate with our industry peers through the Energy Procurement and Supply Association to facilitate a joint industry approach to assessing our supply chains. This leads to a best practice approach to supply chain risk management and creates an alignment of values to which vendors must adhere.

The work carried out by EPSA has enhanced the energy industry Informed 365 Modern Slavery risk assessment platform and developed reporting functionality and dashboarding of supplier risk summaries together with industry standardisation of risk ratings and definitions.

#### **INFORMING THE COMMUNITY**

Through our corporate website we publicly detail the standards of conduct and principles our staff are required to uphold. These set out the minimum requirements we expect in areas such as workplace policies and practices, health and safety, human rights, environmental protection and business integrity. We also encourage suppliers within our supply chain to embrace similar values by adhering to our Supplier Code of Conduct.

Our Modern Slavery Commitment is also promoted through the ActewAGL Joint Venture website together with Whistle-blower details.



## 7 Plans for future action

#### **TAKING ACTION**

ActewAGL encourages anyone (including employees, agents, consultants, contractors or representatives) to report in good faith any concerns about potential violation of legal or regulatory requirements involving ActewAGL or any of its suppliers in its supply chain, especially in relation to the risks of modern slavery.

ActewAGL employees should feel confident that any reports of alleged violations or identification of modern slavery risks, will be dealt with on a confidential basis and in accordance with ActewAGL's Code of Conduct, People Policy and Whistleblower Procedure.

#### **OUR FUTURE COMMITMENT**

ActewAGL recognises that eliminating modern slavery within our business and supply chain requires an ongoing commitment. Identifying and addressing modern slavery risks in our operations and supply chains requires sustained effort through continuous improvement. We expect our approach to continually evolve as we refine our processes and build capability within our business.

#### We will:

- continue our education program and providing biennial refresher training to all employees.
- continue to work through our vendor base by undertaking risk assessments of new or growing suppliers.
- continue to incorporate modern slavery clauses in all new or varied contracts.
- continue our collaboration with the Energy Procurement and Supply Association.
- undertake annual review of those supplier Risk assessments completed to date.
- enhance modern slavery risk assessment as part of our procurement processes.
- enhance our remediation processes as a result of any poor experiences.
- continue to ensure modern slavery risk assessments and Supplier Code of Conducts are completed when onboarding new suppliers.



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