



THE LAW SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Our ref:HRC:DHvk1520052

17 May 2018

The Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier,

Modern Slavery Bill 2018 (NSW)

The Law Society of NSW commends the Government, and NSW Parliament, for taking action to address modern slavery and human trafficking practices. We commend the Parliamentary Working Group on Modern Slavery for its cooperative and collaborative approach to addressing a transnational crime that affects some of society's most vulnerable people.

Noting that the Bill has now been introduced in the Legislative Assembly, we write to raise an issue for the Assembly's consideration.

We understand that the Federal Government has announced that it intends to introduce legislation to address modern slavery practices by mid-2018.¹ Notwithstanding our strong view that the issue of modern slavery must be addressed, we suggest that the passage of this Bill be delayed to allow further consideration of the likely interaction of state legislation on modern slavery with the proposed federal legislation on the same.

Thank you for your consideration. The Law Society contact at first instance is Vicky Kuek, Principal Policy Lawyer, who is available on 9926 0354 or victoria.kuek@lawsociety.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Humphreys OAM
President

¹ Assistant Minister for Home Affairs, "Government strengthens Australia's response to modern slavery," 10 May 2018 media release, available online: <http://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/alexhawke/Pages/modern-slavery.aspx>