
Consultation on: Modern Slavery Bill

From: Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of NZ

To: Education and Workforce Select Committee

Contact: Mark Ross, Chief Executive – mark@wpma.org.nz

Date: 28 June 2026

1. Submission

- 1.1 The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association of New Zealand (WPMA) is appreciative of the opportunity to provide feedback on the Modern Slavery Bill (the Bill).
- 1.2 As a general statement, we submit in support of the BusinessNZ submission on the Bill and endorse their views, plus recommendations. Within our submission we highlight the key points that resonate from a WPMA membership perspective.

2. Key points are highlighted as follows:

- 2.1 WPMA's membership includes global companies funded by offshore investors. In this regard, we raise concerns about the risk of duplication and fragmentation with other international reporting regimes, such as in Australia and the United States. As a recommendation we submit that the Bill recognises equivalent overseas reporting where these address the same core requirements. This will assist in improving cross-border consistency and lower compliance costs.
- 2.2 When it comes to reporting, WPMA supports Group-Level reporting, which allows parent company statements to satisfy New Zealand's requirements and ensure the regime does not impose conflicting obligations on offshore parent entities operating under different regulatory frameworks.
- 2.3 While we support the objective of addressing modern slavery risk and enhancing transparency, the design of the new legislation is highly important. A well-designed framework needs to align with international systems, avoid unnecessary duplication, support small businesses operating in global markets and minimise unintended impacts on smaller firms. A poorly aligned regime risks adding additional compliance costs without improving outcomes.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 While the intent of the Bill is supported, its effectiveness will depend on ensuring the regime is proportionate, interoperable, and targeted, while avoiding duplication, minimising unnecessary compliance costs and limiting unintended impacts across supply chains.
- 3.2 Where equivalent reporting is already being undertaken in other recognised jurisdictions, New Zealand should seek to leverage that reporting rather than require parallel compliance processes.

The Wood Processors and Manufacturers Association

About us:

WPMA is a voluntary industry-based Association representing producers of sawn lumber, pulp, paper, panels, laminated products, mouldings, engineered wood, and bio-forestry products. Total sales of wood products both domestically and globally in 2025 was approximately \$5 billion. The industry employs close to 30,000 staff, mostly in regional New Zealand.

<https://www.wpma.org.nz/>

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