

UN Global Compact: GECA's Communication on Engagement (CoE)

Period covered: 31 August 2018 – 5 August 2021

Part 1. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Stakeholders and Members,

I would like to confirm GECA's (Good Environmental Choice Australia) continued support and commitment to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles relating to human rights, anti-corruption, labour, and environmental impacts and responsibility.

The UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles strongly align with the work we do every day to promote sustainable consumption and production both in Australia and as a member of the Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN). It is embedded in our organisation's mission and vision. This letter of Communication on Engagement (CoE) outlines our actions and measurement of outcomes over this reporting period and provides detail about how we have built on our actions from previous reporting periods.

We are committed to remaining transparent about this work by sharing information with our stakeholders and members through our ongoing communication, regular newsletters, Annual Reports and through our Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) reporting requirements. We will continue to exemplify these principles in the years to come.

Kindest regards



Michelle Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

Part. 2 Description of Actions

GECA has undertaken several actions in this reporting period that demonstrate our commitment to the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles. We have continued to help grow several signatories to the UN Global Compact again in this reporting period.

Our core service offering is our lifecycle ecolabel, following ISO 14024 principles and ISEAL frameworks for global best practice. In this program, we require products and services being certified to ensure it is good for the environment, healthy for people, ethically made and fit-for-purpose.

In recent years, we have focused on rolling out social criteria in many of our standards that require companies who are certified under the scheme to provide evidence that they are meeting human and labour rights in their supply chains and within their business. Since the last reporting period, we have increased that percentage of our standards with this inclusion. We will continue to streamline these criteria and expand upon them.

Our social criteria involve human and labour rights, equal opportunity, lawful conduct, and we recently introduced modern slavery criterion with the goal to roll out this criterion to all standards. This section of our standards requires the manufacturer (or applicant company) to provide evidence of its commitments to human

rights, including labour rights such as policies, published reports containing disclosure in relation to human rights, and commitments to international initiatives such as the UN Global Compact. We require that all companies submit a Modern Slavery Statement as part of the Modern Slavery Act 2018. Our standards go beyond the legislative requirement, as we require all businesses to produce this transparency report regardless of their annual turnover.

Throughout this reporting period, we have provided several consultancy services that involved assisting companies to work towards modern slavery action under the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018. GECA became a license holder for the Social Hotspot Database and Simapro (in which GECA's staff member Deepali Ghadge, Technical Officer, was trained) to use as part of our consultancy work to help clients identify supply chain risks and the need for ongoing due diligence mechanisms. Modern slavery training, assessing risk along supply chains, establishing partnerships, and encouraging clients to become UN Global Compact signatories have been key aspects of this consultancy work.

We have also sought opportunities for upskilling our staff knowledge to assist our clients and work further. One of our staff members, Jessica Mutton, completed the Social Accountability (SA) 8000 Auditor Training, bringing to GECA knowledge and insights into human and labour rights certification on a company and factory level.

As in our previous report, we have continued to integrate sustainable development goals (SDGs) into all our standards to demonstrate future measurable impacts across all the SDGs. This provides clarity to consumers, specifiers, and procurement about how they are actively contributing to these targets.

In July 2021, we submitted the first draft of our *Reflect* Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to Reconciliation Australia that aligns with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. We know that nothing is truly sustainable without acknowledging the interconnectedness of the environment and people. A *Reflect* RAP focuses on the steps we need to take to prepare our organisation for reconciliation initiatives in successive RAPs, with this first one focussing on learning, listening, and growing through this process.

And last, but not least, GECA has proudly been a Certified B Corp since November 2015. B Corp certified businesses are third-party verified that meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose. In 2021, GECA received recognition for being one of the best in the world in Governance. This means GECA achieved a top score in overall mission, ethics, accountability, and transparency.

Part 3. Measurement of Outcomes

We have updated 78% of our standards to include human and labour rights criteria and will continue to update the remaining standards until we achieve 100%. As a recent addition to our human and labour rights, we have updated 48% of our standards with modern slavery criterion. All standards address environmental impacts that a products or service can generate and requires the company to take responsibility for detrimental impacts by adhering to the standard.

We assisted nine companies with their modern slavery work under the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018.

As per the prior reporting period, we have seen a growth in interest and numbers of our ecolabel certified licensees who have signed up to the UN Global Compact, are in the process of signing up, or have committed to sign within six months of being certified.