

## Industrial Relations Management Policy Statement

Document Number - HRSEPOL05

Version no: 1.0

#### 1. Commitment

SPARK Energy strives to continually improve the quality of its productivity, performance and services to enable continued growth in a competitive industry.

Our goal is to have open and transparent processes in all aspects of our dealings with employees, suppliers and subcontractors, encompassing all issues pertaining to industrial relations. Effective client, people and project management is based on open, honest relationships and realistic negotiations that are beneficial to both parties.

## 2. IR Objectives and Goals

SPARK Energy aspires to eliminate lost time, down time and unproductive work practices that arise through grievances or disputes pertaining to industrial relations. We encourage proactive, two-way consultation between parties, with consideration of both parties' requirements, when faced with any issue relating to industrial relations. SPARK Energy is committed to;

- Compliance with state and federal industrial relations legislative instruments, including the Workplace Relations Act 1996 (Cth), the National Building and Construction Industry Award 1990 (Cth) the Construction Industry Long Service Leave Act 1987 (SA), Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth), Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992 (Cth) and the Superannuation Guarantee Charge Act 1992 (Cth), the Accident Compensation Act 1985 (Vic), the Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA) and the Return to Work Act 2014 (SA) (Cth).
- Maintaining an open relationship with our employees and any elected representatives on a project basis, and with other interested parties as appropriate.
- Accepting that the properly held interests of our clients always prevail, and that accordingly
  it is the client who may, in some cases, determine actual industrial relations arrangements.
- Advising clients of SPARK Energy, during the progress of the work, and within 24 hours of becoming aware, of any industrial relations or WH&S matter which may have an impact on the construction program, the principal contract and other related contracts or project costs.
- Employment practices that ensure equal opportunity and shall not be discriminatory.
- Any form of Discrimination, bullying or sexual harassment are unacceptable at SPARK Energy and are unlawful under the following legislation:
  - Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)
  - Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)
  - Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
  - Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth)
  - Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth).
  - Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)

SPARK Energy will make sure that employees and those applying for employment receive fair and unbiased treatment. We are determined to provide a working environment free from discrimination or victimisation in accordance with the principles promoted by the above Acts of Parliament.

 Encouraging all contractors working on their projects comply with applicable awards and workplace arrangements, whilst recognising their right to have their own industrial relations policies and arrangements. SPARK Energy will from time to time request that contractors provide evidence of compliance with relevant Industrial Relations practices.



# Industrial Relations Management Policy Statement

## 3. Responsibilities

SPARK Energy has an active Managing Director who works in the business on a day-to-day basis, and is involved in all aspects of contract negotiations at all levels and often acts as project manager for contracts.

As such, they become the first and ultimate point of contact for all issues pertaining to industrial relations. Effective communication between all stakeholders and SPARK Energy is a priority and is encouraged through open access to the Managing Director by face-to-face meetings, electronic and written communications and telephone contact.

The Managing Director Greg Pipicella can be contacted by the following methods:

- Phone 0418 896 093
- Email greg@sparkenergyaustralia.com.au

Issues relating to discrimination, bullying and sexual harassment can also be raised with Greg Pipicella.

### 4. Right of Entry

SPARK Energy acknowledges the right of entry to union officials who hold valid entry permits to enter their business for specific purposes:

- To investigate a suspected breach of the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) (FW Act) or a term
  of a fair work instrument such as a modern award or enterprise agreement and the
  suspected breach affects or relates to a member of the official's union who performs
  works on the site and the official's union is entitled to represent the member's interest.
- To hold discussions with employees that the permit holder's union is entitled to represent, perform work on the site and wish to participate in these discussions.
- Perform inspections and other functions under WHS laws of a state or territory.

Before entering a site, the union official must:

- Hold a valid federal permit and
- Provide at least 24 hours written notice of entry, unless entry is under an Work Health and Safety (WHS) law – for example Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (WHS Act - SA)

Management of Right of Entry is subject to the relevant provisions outlined in state and federal laws.

#### 5. Freedom of Association

SPARK Energy acknowledges that employees and sub-contractors have a right to belong or not to belong to any industrial association they choose, without it affecting their employment. For employees "industrial association" generally refers to a union. This means that, all things being equal, an employee who is a member of a union (or other association) should not be treated less favourably than an employee who is not a member of a union. The reverse is also true.

### 6. Dispute Resolution and Grievance Procedure

All parties are required to make every effort to resolve grievances or disputes with their employees and applicable parties at the appropriate level, in accordance with the procedure outlined in the relevant award or workplace arrangement.



# Industrial Relations Management Policy Statement

The parties are committed to continue working towards the elimination of lost time through close consultation and cooperation with those directly affected, and through the effective operation of these Grievance/Disputes Settlement Procedures.

Work should continue without interruptions from industrial stoppages, bans and/or limitations whilst the above procedures are being followed. Where SPARK Energy is not the principal contractor, the parties to the dispute shall involve the principal contractor.

## 7. Workplace Relations Management Plan

Where required by legislation or when a project warrants due to its size or complexity, SPARK Energy will develop and track a Workplace Relations Management Plan (WRMP) to identify possible industrial relations issues relevant to commercial construction and details specific actions for occurrences of grievance disputes, site issues or any other unforeseen action that may impact productivity.

### **Change History**

Version	Author	Reviewed		Approved		Details of amendments
		Name	Date	Name	Date	
1.0	Paul			Greg	11/2022	Original Issue
	Albanese			Pipicella		