

STEERING GROUP MEETING – 7 MAY 2020

The Mining Skills Organisation (Mining SO) Pilot Steering Group chaired by Minerals Council of Australia CEO Tania Constable met to endorse the Mining SO Pilot governance structure and terms of reference, as well as the function and membership of the Mining SO Pilot Working Group.

The Steering Group is proud to be part of the Australian Government's creation of a more flexible and responsive Vocational Education and Training (VET) system to help give learners the skills to succeed in modern workplaces and build the pipeline of highly skilled workers which employers need to grow a sustainable minerals industry and a stronger Australia, especially as the nation emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Group's inaugural meeting discussed the goals and aspirations, strategic focus areas and immediate priorities for the Mining SO Pilot.

Industry expectations

With the Mining SO Pilot's detailed vision and mission in development, the overall vision for the Mining SO Pilot is for VET to become the pathway of choice for jobs in the minerals industry. The Steering Group's reflection on the Mining SO Pilot's future potential identified a number of key expectations, including:

- Delivering, maintaining and reflecting people-centric outcomes
- Positive transformation of the learner experience, so it looks and feels different from the current system for those entering and requalifying
- Attracting young people to a high-status VET system which gives them the confidence that their training will make them job-ready
- Establishing a positive, sustainable and inspirational profile in Australia and globally which promotes diverse career opportunities and the mining industry as an employer of choice.

Strategy

The skills and training needs of both the industry and the future minerals workforce will require a particular focus, including retraining and reskilling entrants from other industries – especially those affected by COVID-19.

The Steering Group agreed that the Mining SO Pilot will refocus curricula to meet future needs along the mining and mining equipment and technology sector (METS) value chain. This will incorporate contemporary skill sets and qualifications linked to technology for the modern mining sector (such as automation and data analytics), transferable to the METS and allied sectors.

Immediate priorities

Areas which were discussed and identified included:

- Automation
- Apprenticeships
- Workforce planning
- Cognitive/social skills.

A joint planning session of the Steering Group and Working Group will be held to progress goals, map activity and confirm milestones.