

23 September 2019

National Skills Needs List Review

To whom it may concern,

We are writing in our capacity as a national Registered Training Organisation and a provider of AQF accredited arboriculture training in regard to the importance of Certificate III in Arboriculture (AHC30816) remaining on the National Skills Need List (NSNL).

As we are committed to providing quality training, we have strong relationships within the industry so understand the needs and limitations employers face.

As well as being registered with ASQA to deliver training nationally, we are also a member of the Tree Guild of WA and Arboriculture Australia.

One of our major concerns in ensuring that employers/employees can afford quality training is the current fatality rate within the industry. Till year to date 12 September, there has been a 14% increase in fatalities from this time last year according to Safe Work Australia¹ with a total fatality rate of 254 between 2013-2017 (the highest industry during that period)².

We are also mindful of the need to encourage a younger cohort to identify the arboriculture industry as a desirable career option. Therefore, the capacity for employers to recruit and train new employees is critical in achieving this goal. The NSNL incentives clearly is an essential element in supporting both employers and new employees into the industry.

In a 2018 report by the Department of Agriculture, the department recognised there were about 70,000 Australians currently employed in the industry (as at 2018) with a projected 18,000 more jobs to be created over the following 10 years³.

To fulfil this job growth, job seekers/employees will need to seek training to gain the qualifications to allow them to work in the industry⁴. This is further expanded upon by Arboriculture Australia's

¹ Safe Work Australia, *Fatality Statistics*, accessed 13 September 2019, <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/statistics-and-research/statistics/fatalities/fatality-statistics#year-to-date-2019-preliminary-worker>

² Safe Work Australia, *Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities*, Australia, 2017, <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/system/files/documents/1812/work-related-traumatic-injury-fatalities-report-2017.pdf>

³ Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, *Growing a better Australia – A billion trees for jobs and growth*, 2018, <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/forestry/national-forest-industries-plan.pdf>

⁴ AgriCrew, *Arborist as a Career in Australia*, 2018, <https://www.agricrew.com.au/news/arborist-as-a-career-in-australia/36987/>

instruction to ensure arborists have at least an AQF level 3 qualification for tree maintenance or pruning works⁵. Without funding to provide affordable education, this goal may not be achievable.

To this end, we iterate the importance of arboriculture remaining on the NSNL. This will continue to ensure employers/employees are able to afford quality training that will ensure not only that the industry needs are met, but also that safety is ingrained first and foremost in what is a very high-risk work industry.

Yours sincerely,



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⁵ Arboriculture Australia, *Education*, accessed 19 September 2019, <http://arboriculture.org.au/Qualification>