

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE WATER INDUSTRY 2010



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2010 will see much activity occurring in vocational education and training across the water industry. This is detailed in the following summary.

TRAINING PACKAGE REVIEW

There will be a full review of the water training package (NWP07) undertaken during this period. Two key commonwealth initiatives are to include “sustainability/green skills” and also “flexible qualification” requirements into all training packages.

The deadline for completing this body of work is December 31, 2010. This coincides with the proposed completion date of the full review.

Key areas of focus for the review will be Certificate IV, Diploma and Graduate Certificate levels of the package. Additionally, consideration will be given to introducing an Advanced Diploma to the training package.

It is also anticipated that new units will need to be developed at certificate levels II and III to accommodate evolving needs of industry.

To successfully complete this review, industry will be extensively consulted. This will involve identifying changing and emerging needs through a variety of consultation and communication processes. We intend to utilise Technical Reference Groups, comprised of subject matter experts within industry, as well as, seeking input and feedback more broadly across the industry.

NATIONAL LEARNING RESOURCES FOR CERTIFICATE II, III AND IV

This National Water Commission funded project which commenced in November 2007, is drawing to a close.

The project brief was to develop a suite of resource materials aligned to units of competence at Certificate levels II, III and IV of the water training package (NWP07).

Certificate II materials have been released to industry, with Certificate III materials due for final version release in March and Certificate IV during April.

Given the scarcity of resource materials to meet the needs of industry and the minimal number of Registered Training Organisations that have developed resources, these materials have been warmly received by industry.

One of the key requirements going forward is to ensure resource materials are subject to ongoing maintenance and continuous improvement, particularly in light of expected changes to NWP07 during the full review. Consequently, all revenue generated through the sale of materials will be committed to maintaining and continuously improving the materials.

PROPOSED NATIONAL WATER COMMISSION PROJECTS

The National Water Commission has allocated funding to three key strategic projects, these are:

1. Certification of potable water treatment plant operators;
2. Development of resources aligned to Diploma and Graduate Certificate levels of NWP07;
and
3. Pilot development programs for remote and indigenous communities.

These projects will be discussed in greater detail during the presentation.

REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATIONS

Capacity and capability of Registered Training Organisations with NWP07 listed on their scope of registration continues to be an often discussed concern within the industry.

While there is no simple solution to this issue, it has been raised at several key forums over the last 12 months, with a range of strategies proposed to support registered training organisations to deliver improved outcomes to industry and employees.

This is by no means well advanced in resolving, however, there is certainly a clear desire to address and seek appropriate progress with key industry stakeholders.