

This submission is being lodged on behalf of Timber & Building Materials Association (Aust) Ltd (TABMA) and Door Industry Council and TABMA Workforce and Career Development Pty Ltd.

TABMA is an association representing timber merchants, timber manufacturers, frame and truss fabricators, building material suppliers, timber wholesalers and timber importers. TABMA Workforce and Career Development is a nationally registered group training organisation servicing the timber, construction, manufacturing and furnishing industries.

TABMA employs trainees and apprentices under group training arrangements in 5 states (NSW, QLD, VIC, SA and WA) and we are currently recruiting two apprentices in Tasmania for the timber industry. We have a combined representation of 800 employers and approximately 5000 employees of those organisations.

Questions for consideration

Issue 8: Industry skills and training

1. What are the skills and training needs of the sector over the coming decades, and where are the current gaps?

The timber industry is an increasingly expanding industry, particularly as a result of the current construction booms in NSW. This industry also has increasing skill shortages in the following vocations:

Apprenticeships

- FPI30711 Certificate III in Saw Doctoring
- FPI30811 Certificate III in Woodmachining

Although currently these qualifications are thin market qualifications, they are a strategic qualification and the effect of the skill shortage is that many of these functions that were previously employed in Australia are now outsourced overseas. This outsourcing is not because of a financial imperative, merely than there are not enough qualified people in these trades.

Traineeships

- FPI30511 Timber Manufactured products
- FPI30611 Timber Merchandising
- FPI30911 Timber Truss and Frame Design and Manufacture

Higher level Qualifications

- FPI40411 Timber Truss and Frame Design
- FPI40311 Timber Truss and Frame Manufacture
- FPI50411 Timber Truss and Frame Design
- FPI50311 Timber Truss and Frame Manufacture

2. Are Vocational Education and Training and university training providers well-positioned to meet the future skills and training needs of the sector?

No, unfortunately as state governments attempt to reduce their expenditure on vocational training the timber industry is constantly suffering cuts to funding and in some cases funding has been discontinued. For instance, in South Australia under their Work Ready reforms the above qualifications are no longer funded and in NSW under Smart and Skilled various regions including Newcastle these qualifications are no longer funded.

The government needs to protect strategic industries such as the timber industry and either force state government to adequately fund this training or reduce the funding to the states and fund it directly.