

05 November 2021

Mr Adam Boyton  
National Skills Commissioner  
National Skills Commission  
Department of Education, Skills and Employment  
GPO Box 9980  
Canberra, ACT 2601

Dear Commissioner

**Re: Skills Priority List Stakeholder Survey**

The South Australian Chamber of Mines and Energy (SACOME) welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the National Skills Commission's Skills Priority List Stakeholder Survey (the Survey).

SACOME is the peak industry body representing companies with interests in the South Australian minerals, energy, extractive, oil and gas sectors and associated service providers.

SACOME has consulted with member companies, including major mining operators, large C&I operators, leading exploration companies and service providers to identify skills shortages impacting the South Australian resources sector and provides the following comments to the relevant Survey questions:

*1. Please select the ANZSCO occupations that you would like to provide input on:*

SACOME member companies have identified recruiting difficulties in the following groups/occupations:

- Professionals
  - Chemical Engineer
  - Electrical Engineer
  - Environmental Manager
  - Geologist
  - Geophysicist
  - Geotechnical Engineer
  - Mechanical Engineer
  - Metallurgist
  - Mining Engineer
  - Petroleum Engineer

- Surveyor
- Technicians and Trade Workers
  - Diesel Motor Mechanic
  - Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Draftsperson and Technician
  - Electrician (General)
  - Electrician (Special Class)
  - Fitter (General)
  - Metal Fabricator (Boilermaker)
  - Structural Steel Erector
  - Welder
- Machinery Operators and Drivers
  - Bulldozer Operator
  - Crane, Hoist or Lift Operator
  - Earthmoving Plant Operator
  - Excavator Operator
  - Grader Operator
  - Loader Operator
  - Truck Driver (General)
- Labourers
  - Construction Rigger
  - Scaffolder
  - Steel Fixer

*2. Please select the SPL rating that you recommend for each occupation, and why you recommend this rating:*

SACOME recommends that all the occupations member companies have identified recruiting difficulties in be rated 'occupation in national shortage, with strong future demand'.

SACOME member companies have experienced difficulties in recruiting for these occupations across all Australian jurisdictions.

*3. What is the current supply of workers for these occupations as reported by your members?*

SACOME member companies have indicated that the key reasons for the undersupply of workers in the identified occupations are:

- High demand for these occupations from the resources sector in other states.
- Increased competition for these occupations between South Australian resources sector projects and existing operations.
- Increased competition for these occupations from industries such as civil construction and defence.

The increased demand for these occupations has resulted in employees pursuing opportunities with higher pay and preferred work conditions; and an undersupply of suitably qualified workers.

In regard to surveyors, SACOME member companies have raised that students are genuinely unaware of the profession/industry resulting in low University/TAFE enrolments and an undersupply of surveyors.

*4. Do your members expect demand for the workforce in these occupations to change over the next 5 years?*

SACOME member companies have indicated that future demand for the identified occupations in South Australia will remain strong as mining and petroleum projects commence, maintain or expand their operations over the next 5 years.

SACOME member companies recognise that a significant challenge facing the resources sector over the next 5 years is ensuring enough students enrol in STEM subjects to support a pipeline of suitably qualified professionals for the resources sector in the future.

SACOME member companies are also concerned with low University enrolment numbers for some of the identified occupations, in particular petroleum engineering and surveying. Low enrolments compromise universities' ability to offer these programs and impacts the number of suitably qualified graduates entering the workforce.

*4. Have any of your members reported using employer sponsored visa programs in the past 12 months?*

SACOME member companies have not used an employer sponsored visa program for any occupation in the past 12 months.

5. *Would you like to provide information on any occupations not specifically covered in ANZSCO?*

A SACOME member company has also raised jumbo operators as an occupation where a skills shortage exists in South Australia.

SACOME submits 'jumbo operators' as an occupation for inclusion on the Skills Priority List.

SACOME thanks the National Skills Commission for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Survey and remains committed to ongoing dialogue with the National Skills Commission in relation to these matters.

Kind regards



Rebecca Knol  
Chief Executive Officer