

AHC Improvements Project

Stakeholder Feedback Report - Validation

December 2023

Final versions of qualifications, units of competency and skill sets for the AHC Improvements Project, which included additional elective units and other minor changes since the consultation phase, were made available on the Skills Insight website from 15 November 15 to 3 December 2023. Please visit the Skills Insight website to view a full list of the documents that were submitted for validation during this phase.

Stakeholders engaged during this time, and provided their input and feedback via email, online surveys, online consultation sessions, phone and email, as follows:

	ACT	NSW	NT	QLD	SA	TAS	VIC	WA	National
Government Federal									
Government State									
Government Local									
Employer									
Peak Industry Body									
Regulator									
Training Board									
Registered Training Organisation (RTO)									
Union									
State Training Authority (STA)	*	*	*	*		*	*	*	*
Other									

Note: Updated WHS units of competency were revised and developed in close association with Farmsafe Australia and other relevant WHS regulatory bodies.

**STAs from all States and Territories have engaged with this project and were invited to provide feedback via phone contact, email and attendance at consultation sessions. No specific issues or concerns have been raised at this stage.*

Industry Skills Advisory Council, NT have participated in this project and reported no issues from stakeholders they engage with at this validation phase.

Skills Canberra have engaged in this project and reported no issues from relevant stakeholders they engage with at this validation stage.

Below is a summary of the feedback raised for the draft qualifications, skill sets and units at the validation stage and how this feedback has been dealt with. This involves a consideration of the information provided, and views of industry stakeholders and from people who are part of the Subject Matter Expert Working Group (SMEWG) process. Resolutions are constructed to consider the needs and views of stakeholders to the extent possible, and to comply with the Standards for Training Packages 2012. The resolutions may represent a compromise on one or more stakeholder views with the aim of a workable outcome for industry, State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs) and training providers.

Acronyms: PC – Performance Criteria, PE – Performance Evidence, KE – Knowledge Evidence, AC – Assessment Conditions, SMEs – Subject Matter Experts, SMEWG – Subject Matter Expert Working Group

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General Feedback

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AHC20320	Certificate II in Production Horticulture
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AHC21119	Certificate II in Irrigation
AHC21621	Certificate II in Landscaping
AHC21819	Certificate II in Protected Horticulture
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AHC30318	Certificate III in Rural and Environmental Pest Management
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Diploma	AHC50320	Diploma of Production Horticulture
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Diploma	AHC50820	Diploma of Nursery Management
Diploma	AHC51019	Diploma of Sports Turf Management
Diploma	AHC51316	Diploma of Pest Management

Certificate I Components

Organisation Type: State Government

Coverage: WA

Stakeholder Comments:

Support updates to the Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Certificate II Components

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: SA

Stakeholder Comments:

Support inclusion of all superseded units in the Certificate II in Production Horticulture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

I have read through the feedback and responses for both Sports Turf and Parks and Gardens (I sat on the original SME group for it too) and agree with most of the comments and feedback.

I understand the frustration around code changes and non equivalency but it is outside of both ours and Skills Insights scope to change. We have to work within the governing rules.

I am happy to give my support for the final submission.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all superseded units to be included in the Certificate II in Parks and Gardens

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Certificate II in Nursery operations

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: State Government

Coverage: WA

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC21024 - Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: State Government

Coverage: WA

Stakeholder Comments:

I support the updated draft qualifications in Conservation and Ecosystem Management (Certificates I to IV) as part of the AHC Improvements Project. However, there have been a number of updates to the qualifications within the last few years and my question is about the timeline for any future changes?

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Noted

Thank you for your feedback. We do not know of any planned updates in the near future (separate to updates required due to the AHC Improvement Project)

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Certificate II in Irrigation

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support including all updated units in Certificate II in Landscaping

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC21824 - Certificate II in Protected Horticulture?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Certificate III Components

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: SA

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Certificate III in Dairy Production

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: SA

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC30224 - Certificate III in Dairy Production?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC30324 - Certificate III in Rural and Environmental Pest Management?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: WA

Stakeholder Comments:

Does not support

You have core units

Certificate III in Rural and Environmental Pest Management (Pest animal controller) - 5 units must be selected from the elective group A.

Group A only has 5 units so therefore not elective units

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Noted

Thank you for your feedback.

This is true for the award of Certificate III in Rural and Environmental Pest Management (Pest animal controller), the individual must complete:

6 Core units and 8 Elective units.

Of the 8 Elective units they must be selected from:

- all 5 Group A Electives
- 1 unit can be selected from either Group C or E Electives
- and the remaining unit to be selected from Groups C or E or any other currently endorsed Training Package or accredited course packaged to reflect AQF Certificate II, III or IV outcomes.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: SA

Stakeholder Comments:

Support inclusion of all superseded units in the Certificate III in Production Horticulture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support replacing superseded units of competency with the updated units as specified in this qualification (AHC30624 - Certificate III in Production Horticulture)?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC30824 - Certificate III in Arboriculture?

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Core Unit FWPCOT3347 Fall trees manually (intermediate) to be removed and placed in Group F General Electives.

Reason:

Lengthy consultation in the tree felling units with the Forest Works Project found the AHC Arborists reject that this unit be a part of the Core units as they do not have trees to fell in urban Arboriculture. In particular for assessment that they do not have adequate trees to assess as an arborist.

The role of the arborist in this job of tree felling is a dismantle mainly and a final fall of a tree using ropes and other equipment.

The Arborists felt this unit would be better placed as an elective so arborists can choose to add this if required.

I move to effect this unit to change to the Group F General Electives.

For further clarification contact Georgiana Dain and the SME reference group of which I am a member.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Noted

Thank you for your feedback.

The removal of a unit from the core of the qualification requires a change to the packaging rules which is not within the scope of this project.

Wider industry consultation across the Arboriculture sector would be required to remove and/or add core units. Your feedback will be carefully considered as part of our ongoing Workforce Plan, which guides our decisions on future initiatives.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support updated units and Replace CPCCCM2012 Work safely at heights with RIIWHS204E in elective group for the Certificate III in Arboriculture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thanks you for your support.

Organisation Type: State Government

Coverage: NSW

Stakeholder Comments:

The draft qualification AHC30824 Certificate III in Arboriculture lists the following FWP units in the core:

FWPCOT2254 Maintain chainsaws

FWPCOT2273 Trim and cut felled trees

FWPCOT3347 Fall tree manually (intermediate)

FWPCOT3347 will be updated to FWPCOT3350 Fell Tree Manually as part of the Tree Felling Project, however the updated unit is not included in the current draft qualification – still lists the old unit.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Noted

The updated unit is not included in the draft qualification because it is not yet endorsed.

The updated FWP units will be included in the updated arboriculture qualification via the endorsement process and sequencing of Tree Felling Project before the AHC Improvements Project

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC30921 - Certificate III in Landscape Construction?

NO

AHCWHS302 needs to be equivalent to AHCWHS301. Wasting too much time for students by pushing this through.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Noted

Thank you for your feedback.

The superceded unit AHCWHS302 has already been endorsed and equivalency status cannot be changed. However, the updated version of AHC30921 Certificate III in Landscape Construction qualification is equivalent and will not need a new code because the updated units are electives and don't form part of a specialisation.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support including all updated units in Certificate III in Landscape Construction

Consideration and Proposed Resolution:

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC31024 - Certificate III in Parks and Gardens?

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

I have read through the feedback and responses for both Sports Turf and Parks and Gardens (I sat on the original SME group for it too) and agree with most of the comments and feedback.

I understand the frustration around code changes and non equivalency but it is outside of both ours and Skills Insights scope to change. We have to work within the governing rules.

I am happy to give my support for the final submission.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Noted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC31024 - Certificate III in Parks and Gardens?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC31024 - Certificate III in Parks and Gardens?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: NSW

Stakeholder Comments:

High end turf care (Greens keeping) is critical skill in maintaining open space turf areas to high standards. This is complementary in Open space management.

The Parks and gardens staff would be able to make better decisions and by using a larger raft of skills learnt in this course with green keeping skills. Procedures, timing and resourcing are all required to obtain maximum community benefits with the least amount of resourcing inputs. For this reason, I disagree with the removal of green keeping from the course description.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your feedback.

First paragraph of Qualification Description section will be:

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for trade level roles in the parks and gardens industry including gardener, greenkeeper and groundsperson (original descriptor will be retained that includes greenkeeper).

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Certificate III in Nursery operations

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

I support the updated qualifications and skillset changes including the Certificate III and Diploma of Sports Turf Management

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: State Government

Coverage: WA

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC31424 - Certificate III in Conservation and Ecosystem Management?

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC31824 - Certificate III in Beekeeping?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

I have just completed the survey and affirm the changes are supported by myself.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your feedback.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Certificate III in Irrigation Technology

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC30324 - Certificate III in Rural and Enviromental Pest Management?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution:

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC32724 - Certificate III in Rural Merchandising?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

Support updated units to be included in the Certificate III in Medicinal Cannabis Cultivation and Production

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Certificate IV Components

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all superseded units to be included in the Certificate IV in Protected Horticulture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: SA

Stakeholder Comments:

Support inclusion of all superseded units in the Certificate IV in Production Horticulture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Certificate IV in Nursery operations

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: State Government

Coverage: WA

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC40924 - Certificate IV in Conservation and Ecosystem Management?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC41024 - Certificate IV in Agribusiness?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Certificate IV in Irrigation Management

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC41724 - Certificate IV in Pest Management?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support including all updated units in Certificate IV in Landscape Construction Management

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

Support updated units to be included in the Certificate IV in Medicinal Cannabis Cultivation and Production

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: SA

Stakeholder Comments:

Support inclusion of all superseded units in the Diploma of Production Horticulture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

No issues including updated units in Diploma of Arboriculture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

Support inclusion of updated units in Diploma of Arboriculture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support updated units and new until to be included in the Diploma of Arboriculture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Diploma of Nursery Management

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

I support the updated qualifications and skillset changes including the Certificate III and Diploma of Sports Turf Management

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC51324 - Diploma of Pest Management?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC51422 - Diploma of Agribusiness Management?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your feedback.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

1. No focus on environment where legal obligations on vineyard managers are increasing - suggested electives: AHCWRK410 - Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices
AHCIRG436 - Implement an irrigation-related environmental protection program
2. Increasing focus on regenerative viticulture, not locking into specific philosophy such as organic or biodynamic; suggest greater focus on soil and therefore plant nutrition - suggested electives :
AHCORG411 - Manage organic soil improvement
AHCPCM406 - Develop a soil health and plant nutrition program
3. No capacity to develop a system for in season adjustments to quality and yield - suggested elective:
AHCPTH409 - Develop a crop regulation program

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your feedback.

Further consultation with stockholder and Subject Matter Expert (SME) has confirmed that the following three elective units have been included in the Diploma of Viticulture:

- AHCWRK410 - Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices
- AHCPCM406 - Develop a soil health and plant nutrition program
- AHCPTH409 - Develop a crop regulation program.

These three particular units were prioritised to expand the scope of electives to include regenerative agriculture principles.

Organisation Type: Registered Training Organisation

Coverage: SA

Stakeholder Comments:

- Support to include three extra units of competency in the Diploma of Viticulture qualification to increase scope of electives to include regenerative agriculture principles for soil health and crop rotation.
- AHCWRK410 - Implement and monitor environmentally sustainable work practices
 - AHCPCM406 - Develop a soil health and plant nutrition program
 - AHCPTH409 - Develop a crop regulation program

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your feedback.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support all updated superseded units to be included in the Diploma of Irrigation Design

Consideration and Proposed Resolution:

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: QLD

Stakeholder Comments:

Do you support the updates to this qualification AHC51920 - Diploma of Applied Agronomy?

YES

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your feedback.

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

Support inclusion of updated units in Advanced Diploma of Arboriculture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Organisation Type: Employer

Coverage: VIC

Stakeholder Comments:

Support updated units, inclusion of prerequisite table and additional elective units in the Advanced Diploma of Arboriculture

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.

Component Index

AHCSS00089	Business Skills For Sports Turf Management Skill Set
AHCSS00089	Business Skills For Sports Turf Management Skill Set

Organisation Type: Peak Industry Body

Coverage: National

Stakeholder Comments:

Support replacing the unit AHCWHS401 with AHCWHS503 Manage workplace health and safety processes in the AHCSS00089 Business Skills For Sports Turf Management Skill Set.

Consideration and Proposed Resolution: Adopted

Thank you for your support.