

# JSC Stakeholder Forum Communique

## 17 September 2025

The second Skills Insight Stakeholder Forum meeting for 2025 was held at the Novotel Melbourne Airport, on Wednesday 17 September 2025. Present at the meeting were Forum representatives, the Hon Andrew Giles MP, Minister for Skills and Training and representatives from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

### Skills Insight's Workforce Plan Launch

The Minister officially launched Skills Insight's Workforce Plan 2025-2026, commending the organisation for its role in workforce planning. He highlighted the vital role of Jobs and Skills Councils (JSCs) in strengthening industry leadership, driving workforce planning, and connecting industry, government, unions, and training systems. He highlighted that Workforce Plans are central to the work of JSCs, providing the evidence base needed to set priorities and address workforce challenges.

### Address from Skills Insight

Les Gordon, Skills Insight Director, highlighted the valuable role of the Forum in shaping solutions for shared industry priorities and guiding where action is most needed through Activity Submissions. He acknowledged the diversity of industries served and the challenges and learnings this brings. Les also provided an update on the appointment of the new CEO Dugald Murray, noting this marks a pivotal moment for the organisation. He thanked outgoing CEO Michael Hartman for his contributions, highlighting that Dugald Murray's 20 years of stakeholder engagement experience will offer a valuable opportunity to bring fresh perspective and shape the organisation's future work.

Jessica Hocking, Acting CEO provided an update on the work undertaken since the last meeting and over the past 12 months. She thanked stakeholders for their valuable contributions and highlighted that stakeholder engagement underpins everything Skills Insight does.

### Workshops to inform Skills Insights work

Three workshops were held covering:

- Productivity for a Skilled Workforce
- Regional Rural and Remote Roadmap
- Skills Leadership Action Plan

## Activity project guidance

Joshua Rayner, Executive Director Skills Strategies provided an overview of the projects completed or underway noting that all industries have been covered in some way by projects under the JSC and provided a summary of the decision-making processes to determine projects. Additional information was requested to ensure stakeholders were able to contribute to impact and success of projects. An assessment from the incoming CEO on governance and decision-making processes was requested.

## Future of the Forum

Members supported holding additional meetings with the intent of contributing more to decision making.

## Action register

Action	Owner	Status update
1. Circulate to Forum Members:  Forum presentations including additional information on November project submission concepts and Prioritisation Framework with request for feedback.  Communique, Action Register and feedback survey.	A/CEO	Drafts prepared, will be circulated by COB 26 September
2. Explore issues raised by the Forum to prepare incoming CEO for early action. Including:  Activity submission decision-making process enhancement.  Forum meeting cycle to enable genuine consultation and solicit leadership on both activity submissions and workforce planning.  Ensure Forum events and other engagement opportunities are facilitated in a way that enables sharing of diverse perspectives.	Board  A/CEO	Board meeting 30 September
3. Brief incoming CEO with available background and Board instructions to assess the Forum and associated processes.	Board  CEO  A/CEO	Commencing 7 October
4. CEO to meet all Forum Members in first 60 days.	CEO	Commencing mid-late October

Meeting closed at 2.37pm. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 15 April 2026. Possible online meeting to be determined.