



NSW UE ITAB News Service 135 - November 2024

Welcome to the November news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB. The year has flown by with only 29 days until Christmas, it's been a busy year!

This month the ITAB is working for our industries by participating in all four of the Power Skill Organisation (JSA) training package update meetings, specialist TAG meetings, participating in the Electrotechnology Trades Assistant RPL project, submitting NSW Skills List proposals, conducting the ITAB AGM and board meeting and presenting to the new SIESN group to name a few things. This edition is jammed packed with exciting new announcements, information updates and new government strategies related to our industries.



I hope you enjoy the read!

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- [NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB Conference 2025](#)
 - [Time is running out for NSW Fee Free Training](#)
 - [Consolidation of Competency Development Units project consultation](#)
 - [Hunter and Sydney Electrical Safety Networks](#)
 - [NEW: Occupational Standards Classification for Australia \(OSCA\).](#)
 - [Jobs and Skills Australia \(JSA\) Occupation Shortage List \(OSL\)](#)
 - [Federal Government - TAFE update.](#)
 - [Towards a Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap.](#)
 - [SafeWork NSW 5 year strategic plan- now released](#)
 - [Australian Standards- Electrical industries public consultation now open.](#)
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NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB Conference 2025

The ITAB will hold a conference in April 2025 in the Hunter region of NSW. Earlier this month the ITAB conducted a survey of relevant stakeholders to ascertain the level of interest and potential location for the conference to be held. There was overwhelming interest in an ITAB conference in 2025, with the two most popular destinations being Sydney and the Hunter.

As the theme of the conference will be skills and renewable energy, the board of the ITAB agreed that the conference should be held in the Hunter Valley. The Hunter- Central Coast (HCC) is one of the 5 designated Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) declared by state and federal governments. The conference will provide value insights and opportunities on how industry can satisfy the skilled workers required to meet net zero by 2050. More details and conference registration information will be available in the coming weeks on our website and in the next newsletter.

Watch this space!

Time is running out for NSW Fee Free Training

Time is running out to access any remaining NSW Fee Free training places for commencement by 31 December 2024. **Skills NSW** provides a wide range of fee free training courses to build jobs and careers. The program aims improve access to training, including for young people, job seekers, First Nations People, unpaid carers, women undertaking study in non-traditional trades and certain categories of visa holders.

It does this by offering courses that support priority industries, fee-free the priority courses at TAFE NSW and other Smart and Skilled contracted training providers, including Adult and Community Education providers.

Access to NSW Fee Free places is limited and is subject to:

- availability of a NSW Fee Free place
- commencing training in a NSW Fee Free priority course between 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024
- meeting the student eligibility requirements below.

Within the utilities and electrotechnology industries (including water), there are **15 courses** offered by **13 providers**.

Check course details on the **Skills NSW website** and check eligibility and the availability of fee free places with the approved training provider.

Consolidation of Competency Development Units project consultation

The consultation for the Consolidation of Competency Development Units project is now open. The consultation period will run from **Friday, 22nd November, until Friday, 3rd January 2025**. The project proposes key changes to the UEE Training Package, aimed at simplifying and updating training products to better meet industry needs.

As part of this project, Power Skills Organisation (PSO) is seeking feedback on several draft revisions, including:

- 3 new Units of Competency designed to replace 9 existing Units.
- Updates to 9 Qualifications impacted by these changes.

- A review of 7 Qualifications with superseded or deleted Units.
- 22 Qualifications identified for removal due to low or no enrolments over the past four years.

For more information please visit: [Consolidation of Competency Development Units – Powering Skills Organisation](#) Please send your feedback to the ITAB at melissa@uensw.com.au by **COB Monday 23rd December 2024**.

Hunter and Sydney Electrical Safety Networks



The Hunter Industry Electrical Safety Network (HIESN) and Sydney Industry Electrical Network (SIESN) provide electrical professionals with a FREE network to share electrical safety insight and learnings, regulatory and industry updates. Participants consist of industry leaders from Tomago Aluminium, BlueScope, Sydney Water, NECA and Safe Work NSW to name a few.

HIESN has been active for over 30 years, with SIESN recently restarting following a dormant period post

COVID. The SIESN restart meeting was held at SafeWork NSW offices in Parramatta Square on the 4th November 2024. It was attended by over 40 people in person and online including professional electrical engineers and HSRs in their designated companies.

The ITAB gave a presentation on the revised Supervision Standard for Apprentice in the Electrical Industry that are now enforceable from the 1st of September 2024. The overwhelming feedback by attendees was that the forum was highly valuable to participants. It facilitates knowledge, learnings and working towards safer workplaces.

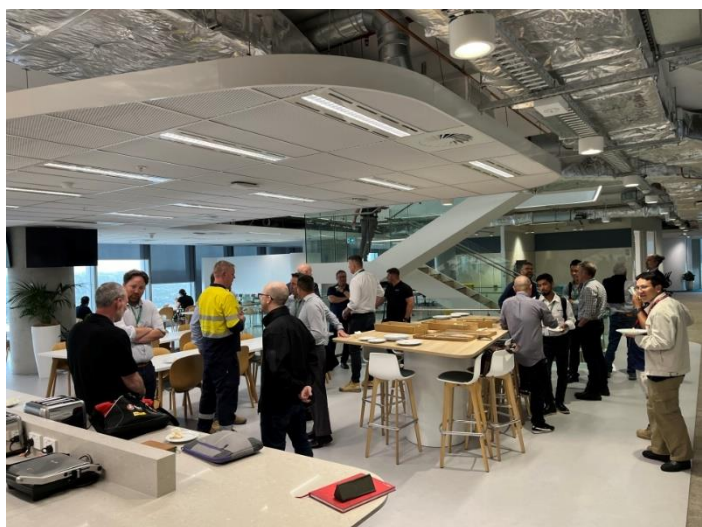
The session concluded with breaking of bread networking lunch, where SIESN members got to chat and discuss safety stories and learnings.

HIESN meet monthly, and SIESN meet quarterly, with their next meeting in February 2025. To find out more about HIESN, contact:

Tim.Bolam@tomago.com.au. To

learn more about SIESN, contact:

Robert.Lau@sydneywater.com.au



NEW: Occupational Standards Classification for Australia (OSCA).

The Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand have announced that while maintaining comparability, each country will introduce their own tailored occupational statistical classifications.

Localised adaptations will now better reflect the contemporary labour market and meet stakeholder needs. The ABS and Stats NZ will continue to work closely together and are committed to providing high quality insights and data to inform important decisions in both Australia and NZ. The two organisations will continue cooperative relationship to ensure international occupation data standards are aligned.

Occupational standards are important for our industries to highlight new and emerging occupations including where they may occur. Importantly, correct occupational classifications allow the ABS to measure occupational skill shortages which link to the *Occupational Shortage Lists*. Recently the gas industry received a new occupational classification to better reflect the occupation of gas network technicians, misclassified as gas fitters. Thank-you Tony Palladino and EEOZ training standards for 15 years of lobbying for our gas industry- well done!

The release of the updated classification is just around the corner, on **6 December 2024, at 11.30am** (AEDT). For more information visit: [About OSCA | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) Occupation Shortage List (OSL)

The JSA Occupational Shortage List 2025 stakeholder survey is open until **7 March 2025**. NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology stakeholders are encouraged to participate. Information provided to JSA, will give insight into the recruitment challenges and occupations that might be in shortage across the Australian labour market. Stakeholder contributions will help to ensure that the 2025 OSL is based on comprehensive evidence. Information sharing and writing submissions via this process by the NSW UE ITAB will now result in the new gas networker technician occupational classification being included on this list. Inclusion on this list, trigger a vast array of government financial incentives to employers who employ skilled workers or apprentices in these areas. Please share this request with your industry networks to enhance this valuable data set. A report on the findings will be published on the JSA website in October 2025. [Click here](#) to register for the 2025 OSL Stakeholder Survey.

Federal Government - TAFE update.

The Federal Government is set to introduce legislation to establish fee-free TAFE as an enduring feature of the national VET system. This will see 100,000 fee free TAFE places funded each year from 2027. This builds on the partnership with state and territory governments to deliver 300,000 fee free places over three years from 2024 and pending further agreements for an additional 20,000 construction and housing training places. The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) states that, since TAFE fee free commenced in January 2023 to 30 June 2024, there have been 508,000 enrolments (231,498 in NSW) in courses in priority sectors including;

- 131,000 in the care sector including aged and disability care
- 35,500 in early childhood education and care
- 48,900 in digital and tech
- 35,000 in construction

It is expected that fee free TAFE will continue to benefit priority cohorts. The legislation to ensure this enduring funding builds on the \$30 billion five-year National Skills Agreement with states and territories. It is expected to boost access to qualifications and build productivity in priority areas to achieve national ambitions for net zero transformation, construction and housing supply, the care and support economy, defence, digital and tech, manufacturing and restoring sovereign capability. [Click here](#) for Minister Andrew Giles MP Second Reading Speech for the Bill

Towards a Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap.

Jobs and Skills Australia recently released their interim report Towards a Regional, Rural and Remote Jobs and Skills Roadmap (roadmap), that focuses on the workforce and skills needs of regional, rural and remote Australia.

The roadmap aims to:

- identify the drivers and pressures on regional labour markets
- assess the current performance of the regional skills system
- identify changes to the regional skills system resulting from current reform processes and their likely impact; and
- identify the residual challenges and explore potential remedies for discussion with key stakeholder and policy makers.

For more information, visit [Regional, rural and remote Australia | JSA](#)

[Regional, rural and remote Australia – a jobs and skills roadmap | Jobs and Skills Australia](#)

SafeWork NSW 5 year strategic plan- now released

SafeWork NSW's 5-year strategic plan has now been released. The strategic plan will guide SafeWork NSW in delivering and improving on our regulatory and enforcement approaches, and in building industry and internal capabilities. This will ensure that SafeWork NSW is a strong, accountable and responsive work health and safety regulator that delivers consistent regulatory outcomes across NSW

2023-2033 targets are:

- Reduce worker fatalities caused by traumatic injuries by 30%
- Reduce the frequency rate of serious claims resulting in one or more weeks off work by 20%
- Reduce the frequency rate of claims resulting in permanent impairment by 15%

- Reduce the overall incidence of work-related injury or illness among workers to below 3.5%
- Reduce the frequency rate of work-related respiratory disease by 20%
- No new cases of accelerated silicosis by 2033

For more information on the new strategic plan visit: [SafeWork NSW Strategic Plan 2024-2029](#)

Australian Standards- Electrical industries public consultation now open.

Standards Australia currently have two standards that are relevant to the NSW utilities and electrotechnology industries currently out for public comment. These are:

- AS/NZS60079.19 Explosive atmospheres, Part 19: Equipment repair, overhaul and reclamation (IEC 60079-19:2019, MOD)
- AS 2467 Maintenance of electrical switchgear

Other standards may be relevant to your own area of practise, the ITAB suggests that you review and provide feedback to the standards by visiting:

<https://standards.my.site.com/idppoc/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fidppoc%2Fs%2Fhome> by creating your own account.

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