



NSW UE ITAB News Service 136 - December 2024

Welcome to the December news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB.

This month the ITAB is working for our industries by participating in Power Skill Organisation (JSA) training package updates, Technical Advisory Committee meetings, Hydrogen Industry Reference Panel meetings to name a few. This edition has exciting new announcements, information updates and new government strategies related to our industries.



The ITAB is **closed from Christmas Day until the Monday 6th January 2025**. On behalf of myself and the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB Board we wish you a Merry Christmas and thank those stakeholders who have collaborated with the ITAB to ensure vocational education and training is high quality, and accessible in NSW over the last 12 months.



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- [**ITAB Conference 2025 – Save the Date**](#)
 - [**Smart and Skilled Update**](#)
 - [**NSW Skills Plan 2024-2028 Released**](#)
 - [**Fee Free Apprenticeships and Traineeships extended to 30 June 2025**](#)
 - [**Creating an Energy Sector Gateway: Consultation now open**](#)
 - [**Qualifications Reform: Design Group Final Advice**](#)
 - [**National Skills Agreement – Outcomes Framework**](#)
 - [**Building Commission NSW: Survey for Electricians now open!**](#)
 - [**Hunter and Sydney Electrical Safety Networks**](#)
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NSW NEWS

ITAB Conference 2025 – Save the Date

The ITAB will hold a conference on the **3rd and 4th April 2025** at the Hunter Valley Gardens in Pokolbin NSW. The conference will provide value insights and opportunities to meet the demand of skilled workers required for net zero by 2050. More details and conference registration information will be available in the next newsletter in January. We hope to see you there!

Smart and Skilled Update

Smart and Skilled provides eligible students with:

- an entitlement to government-subsidised training up to and including Certificate III
- government funding for higher-level courses (Certificate IV and above) in targeted priority areas.

[Click here](#) for more information.

NSW Skills Plan 2024-2028 Released

The NSW Skills Plan 2024-28: Building Skills and Shaping Success has now been released. The Plan is the NSW Government's strategic plan for skills. This is the first comprehensive skills plan since 2008 and is the action-based response to the findings and recommendations from the recent NSW Vocational Education and Training (VET) Review.

The plan presents the NSW Government's transformative reform agenda designed to strengthen the NSW VET system and better meet priority skills, local skills and skills pathways for the people of New South Wales.

Underpinned by a new stewardship model, the plan reflects a commitment to:

- Building a strong and stable TAFE NSW
- Supporting a network of high-quality providers
- Uplifting and strengthening our NSW VET teaching workforce.
- Ensuring the right skills in the right places
- Removing barriers to access and open pathways to training and jobs
- Empowering learners to succeed.

With more than 40% of occupations in NSW experiencing critical shortages, the plan seeks to build a strong pipeline of skilled workers and foster a resilient economy, equipped to address housing issues, energy transition, evolving technologies and an increasingly ageing population. The plan also reiterates the NSW Government's ongoing commitment under the National Skills Agreement to progress areas of national importance, from Closing the Gap, VET completions, to the VET workforce.

The Utilities and Electrotechnology industries are identified as one of six critical skills area (CSA) and a key feature in the plan. This is under-pins the NSW government goal of reaching Net Zero by 2050.

Further information on the NSW Skills Plan can be found on the [NSW Department of Education website at https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/nsw-skills-plan-2024-2028--building-skills-and-shaping-success](https://education.nsw.gov.au/about-us/strategies-and-reports/nsw-skills-plan-2024-2028--building-skills-and-shaping-success)

Fee Free Apprenticeships and Traineeships extended to 30 June 2025

The NSW Department of Education has confirmed a further extension of free apprenticeships and traineeships for students who commence their Smart and Skilled training up until 30 June 2025. This assistance helps remove financial barriers for students and supports a strong pipeline of skilled workers to build the NSW economy.

[Click here](#) for more information.

NATIONAL NEWS:



Creating an Energy Sector Gateway: Consultation now open

The Certificate II (Career Start) qualification is currently the industry recognised gateway to prepare individuals for further training in the electrotechnology industry. With decreasing conversions from a Certificate II to energy careers, a refreshed Certificate II pathway focusing on broader experiences across industry will enable a contemporary approach to careers aimed at achieving Net Zero.

However, over the past three versions of the CII the core and electives in this qualification have been the subject of modification. These changes have complicated the pathways into the energy sector, making the CII no longer fit for purpose.

The draft changes to training products include:

- One new specialisation Pathway Certificate II Qualification designed for individuals looking for a career start in the electrotechnology industry in their chosen field. The new specialisation Pathway Qualification would replace nine existing Certificate II Qualifications.
- One new gateway Certificate II Qualification designed to encourage individuals to enter the electrotechnology industry through exposure to a range of job opportunities.

For more information please visit: <https://poweringskills.com.au/project/creating-an-energy-sector-gateway/>

Public and Government consultation are now open. Please provide your feedback to the ITAB at melissa@uensw.com.au by **COB 9th January 2025**

Qualifications Reform: Design Group Final Advice

State and Territory Skills Ministers agreed to a new, purpose-based approach to VET qualifications design. The design of new qualifications will be guided by principles that will improve quality, simplify course designs and reduce complexity. This represents a shift away from a one size fits all approach to qualification development and ensure VET qualifications are more responsive to the needs of learners and employers.

Skills Ministers reaffirmed that under these reforms current qualifications arrangements for traditional trades, as developed and agreed by industry, remain unchanged.

The Skills Ministers agreed to a phased implementation approach, with the new system starting to be rolled out from 1 July 2025 for all new projects. It is anticipated that reformed qualifications will be available for delivery from 2026.

For more information on the Qualifications Reform Design report click [here](#).

National Skills Agreement – Outcomes Framework

State and Territory Skills Ministers agreed to publish the first iteration of the NSA Outcomes Framework. The NSA Outcomes Framework builds on the shared commitment of all jurisdictions to deliver a high-quality, responsive and accessible VET system that supports Australians to obtain the skills they need to prosper.

The Outcomes Framework will allow governments and other stakeholders to track, monitor and respond to changes over the life of the NSA. It will help guide strategic decision-making by Skills Ministers and drive progress against the outcomes and national priorities within the NSA.

INDUSTRY NEWS



Building Commission NSW: Survey for Electricians now open!

The Building Commission NSW has developed an anonymous survey for electricians. The survey asks for the opinions from electricians on the current process for completing Certificates of Compliance for Electrical Works (CCEWs). It also asks for suggestions on how BCNSW could improve the process. The survey is anonymous and takes no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

Electricians can complete the survey at:

https://nswgov.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71kaT6gtfUfUBi6?utm_association=itab

For more information visit: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/building-commission>

Hunter and Sydney Electrical Safety Networks

The next Sydney Industry Electrical Safety Network (SIESN) meeting will be held on Monday 17 February 2025. The events are catered for, as such, the in-person RSVP cut-off date will be Friday 24 January 2025. To learn more about SIESN, contact: Robert.Lau@sydneywater.com.au. The Hunter Industry Electrical Safety Network (HISEN) next meeting will be held in February 2025. For more details contact Tim Bolam at tim.bolam@tomago.com.au

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas, safe travels, and a relaxing break. We look forward to working with you in 2025.



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