



NSW Utilities & Electrotechnology
Industry Training Advisory Body (ITAB)

NSW UE ITAB News Service 152– June 2026

Executive Officer Message

Welcome to the June news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB and the end of the financial year.

This month the ITAB has presented to the Hunter Electrical Industry Safety Network (HEISN) and become a registered charity. The ITAB has also worked with key NSW electrotechnology and gas industry and government stakeholders to help address major skill shortages in our industry. The ITAB has also worked closely with DCCEEW to develop the ASP scheme survey.



Enjoy the read.

In this newsletter we have:

NSW News

- **2026 Asset Service Providers Survey- Have Your Say**
- **NSW Apprentice Electrician Employer Evaluation Guide**
- **ITAB Charity Status**
- **Smart and Skilled Updates**

National News

- **Productivity and Skills**
- **Review of the UEE Training Package – Updates**

2026 Asset Service Provider Survey- Have your Say.

The ITAB has been working very closely with the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Accredited Service Provider (ASP) Scheme branch on skill shortages and workforce development challenges in this sector. The ITAB has recently completed its's bespoke industry engagement project (BIEP) research and made recommendations to the NSW Department of Education. Recommendations relate to how the ESI workforce can meet their skilling needs and assist with net zero targets for NSW. One of the recommendations is to list the Advanced Diploma of ESI – Power Systems on the NSW Smart and Skilled List to enable government funding for training and delivery to be accessed. As part of this potential listing, the ITAB requires evidence from industry that there is a need for the qualification to be included on the list and there will be future demand for it.

The ITAB has worked closely with NSW DCCEEW ASP Scheme in drafting an industry survey for ASP industry stakeholders to partake in. Information gathered from the survey will be used to build the case for the qualification to be included on the list. The survey will also gather important demographic and workforce information.



I encourage all ASP industry stakeholders, including business owners, workers, and those anticipating a career in the power systems design area to do the survey. The survey will be available throughout the month of July. The survey can be accessed at: [ASP Level 3 Survey - Provisional Class and Traineeship – Fill in form](#)

NSW Apprentice Electrician Employer Evaluation Guide.

In 2022, the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB developed an Employer Evaluation Guide. It is a guide for assessing an employer's capacity to provide work-based (on-the-job) training. The guide outlines what an employer, Apprentice Connect Australia Provider (ACAP), and State Training Authority representatives should consider when appropriately signing up a candidate for an electrical apprenticeship.

The guide has information on duties of the employer, employer conditions of training and employment, and an employer's responsibility for the monitoring of training. It also outlines the range of work activities and employer must be able to provide for an electrical apprenticeship. This includes the types of facilities, equipment and resources and the level of house and supervision and mentoring requirements for an electrical apprentice.



The guide is a practical tool to assist in decision making. When the new electrotechnology qualification is developed and endorsed in 2027, the resource will be updated.

ITAB Charity Status

June has been a month of good news. In February, the ITAB applied for charity status with the National Charity and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC) which has now awarded.



This will now allow the ITAB to apply for funding for project work and grants that would otherwise be unavailable. If your organisation is interested in working with the ITAB on a project, please contact me.

Smart and Skilled Update

1,000 Apprentices and Trainees program

Since 2023 the *1,000 NSW Public Sector Apprentices and Trainees Program* has supported the recruitment of new entrants into roles in over 80 NSW Government and state-owned agencies across NSW. 1,000 new apprentices and trainees have been employed across the public sector including young people, people with a disability, women and long-term unemployed. These candidates have had the opportunity to earn an income while learning practical skills on the job and gaining a nationally recognised qualification to kick start their careers. Since its commencement, this program has helped to tackle skills shortages across essential services and created paid career pathways. [Click here](#) for more information.



SBATs powering NSW's future workforce

According to NCVER data, more than 4,000 high school students in NSW are currently undertaking a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship. SBATs are a useful recruitment and training tool for both students and employers. Students gain on-the-job experience in a paid role while gaining a nationally recognised qualification while at school completing their HSC. Employers build a pipeline of motivated and skilled future workers combining work and study. With growing demand and competition for skilled workers in critical industries including care and health, SBATs provide a head start for students and employers. [Click here](#) to see how your business can grow and give a young person a start in their career.

Vocational Training Assistance Scheme

Did you know that financial assistance is available to eligible new entrant trainees in NSW to assist in meeting some of the costs associated with training? The *Vocational Training Assistance Scheme (VTAS)* helps to offset costs incurred for travel and accommodation related to classroom based, formal training for trainees who travel more than 110km return to attend day or block

release training with their RTO. VTAS provides \$0.52 per km travel rate and \$70 per night for accommodation. [Click for details](#). VTAS claims must be submitted by **30 June following** the year of travel.

NSW Training Awards

Recognising excellence through the NSW Training Awards. The 2026 Regional NSW Training Awards have kicked off across the state, celebrating the outstanding achievements and contributions of students, educators, trainers, registered training organisations and employers helping shape the future workforce of NSW. In 2025, the electrotechnology industry (NECA Apprenticeships and Training NSW and ACT) won the apprentice of the year award in NSW and were awarded runners up at the national training awards.

Regional award events shine a spotlight on the talent, innovation and dedication driving VET in communities across NSW, while recognising the partnerships that help students build real-world skills and successful career pathways. Winners from each region will progress to the 2026 NSW State Training Awards, to be held on 25th of August, where the state's top VET achievers will be recognised on the big stage. [Click here](#) to read more.

National News:

Productivity and Skills:

In late May Powering Skills Organisation (PSO) released an insightful research report called: Productivity and Skills: Exploring the Unique. The research shows that the clean energy transition is changing the economy at a time of low productivity growth and widespread skills shortages. This research finds the energy sector is most affected but highlights that strengthening skills could be key to improving productivity outcomes. Governments and industry are already acting to build skills in the energy sector. This research adds by linking the skills agenda to productivity. It focuses on insights rather than policy guidance.

The research finds the following:

1. A connection between the national slowdown in productivity and the extent of skills shortage across the economy.
2. This connection is most pronounced in the energy sector, showing the slowest productivity growth and amongst the most severe skills pressures.
3. Skills shortages hit productivity in the energy sector harder than other sectors. Work is more labour- and skills-intensive so gaps in expertise have a bigger effect.
4. Major drivers of current skill pressures in the energy sector include the rise in demand of cleaner energy alongside a decades long shortage of core trades.
5. Given clean energy demands are expected to increase in future, addressing associated skills shortages could also help lift productivity growth.

6. Several of Powering Skills Organisation's (PSO's) existing initiatives have a productivity upside. A National Continuing Professional Development (CPD) framework for electrical trades, for example, could help deliver clean energy skills at scale while also boosting productivity

Interestingly, the report also states that upskilling rates are falling even as skill needs rapidly expand. Between 2007 and 2022, utilities saw the biggest drop in work-related training anywhere in the economy training in construction has also declined and is now amongst the lowest levels nationally. **Tradespeople (mainly electricians) generally undertake less upskilling than other occupations**" pg. 15. For more information on this report visit: <https://poweringskills.com.au/publications/>

Review of the UEE Training Package – Updates

As readers would be aware the UEE Training Package is currently under a full review.

Qualifications that are currently available for comment are:

UEE209xx: CII in Electronics, UEE 3082x: CIII Electrotechnology Electrician, UEE308xx: CIII in Instrumentation and Control, UEE:426xx: CIV Electrical Equipment in Hazardous Areas, UEE505xx: Diploma of Electrotechnology Systems, UEE310xx: CIII in Fire Detection and Control. The full scope of products will be available for full public comments from 18th December 2026 until 12th March 2027.

As you may be aware, one of the core functions of the NSW UE ITAB is to ensure that qualifications that are developed by PSO meet the workforce development and skilling requirements of NSW industry stakeholders. As such **please ensure that any comments that you make, that you also forward them to me.**

For more information visit:



If you would like to contribute to this News Service, please feel free to write to the undersigned accordingly. Thank you.

For the latest and past News Services visit: www.uensw.com.au/news/

Kind regards

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