



NSW Utilities & Electrotechnology
Industry Training Advisory Body (ITAB)

NSW UE ITAB News Service 153 – July 2026

Executive Officer Message

Welcome to the July news service of the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB. Winter has truly arrived!

This month the ITAB visited SMEG Australia to understanding their skilling and workforce development needs, I also met with the PSO and state and territory ITAB's for updates on the training package developments and new implementation strategies in development.



Enjoy the read.

In this newsletter we have an:

NSW News

- **ITAB Wins the DoE Advisory Service Contract**
- **NSW ITAB Visit to SMEG Australia**
- **Spotting the “Too Good to be True Electrical Training Providers”**
- **What’s your next career move?**
- **Essential Energy Training Academy**
- **Smart and Skilled Update**

National News

- **V2X Everything Skills Sets Endorsed**
- **LLN Research for the Utilities Industries**
- **UEE Full Training Package Review**

NSW NEWS

ITAB Wins DoE Advisory Service Contract

After providing advisory services to the NSW Department of Education for over 30 years, I'm pleased to inform readers that the NSW Utilities and Electrotechnology ITAB has won the next contract to provide the NSW Department of Education with industry advisory services for the industry for the next 18 months. Advisory services include assisting industry skill and workforce development needs, working with industry and PSO on training package development to ensure NSW stakeholders get what they need and advocating for industry to get funding for qualifications to assist with skills development including apprenticeships and traineeship opportunities amongst other requirements.

NSW ITAB Visit to SMEG Australia

In mid-July, I visited SMEG Australia with a representative, and dear colleague from the Department of Education (Training Service NSW) Peter Hay. Peter and I met with the CEO and senior executives regarding the skills and workforce needs of their business and the wider consumer electrical appliances industry in NSW. This was the first step in the process of setting up an NSW industry-based consumer electrical appliance workforce development group to address critical skilling needs in the industry. If you are aware of any industry stakeholders who would be interested in participating, please get in touch.



Peter and I also had a tour of the SMEG Australia workshop and met with past and present electrical apprentices. We asked them about their careers and apprenticeship journeys. They were keen to share their experiences and highlight the benefits of the industry and apprenticeship. SMEG apprentices' supervisors also agreed to attend the TS NSW supervisors' workshop that was being held in late July.



Spotting "Too Good to Be True" Electrical Training Providers

The age-old adage stands: *"If it is too good to be true, it probably is."*

Over the past 12 months, there has been a steady stream of complaints and tip-offs regarding a rise in dodgy Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) delivering qualifications under the UEE Electrotechnology training package. Candidates report spending up to \$30,000 on an RTO qualification, only to fail the Certificate of Proficiency (CoP) test with Training Services NSW.

For anyone wishing to obtain an electrical qualification—especially one linked to a licensing outcome—it is critical to select an industry-respected RTO that delivers comprehensive on- and off-the-job training and assessment.

Any RTO offering accelerated training, "quick" skill assessments, or fast-tracked Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is likely failing to provide a quality service recognised by the electrotechnology industry.

4 Things to Consider When Selecting an RTO

1. **ASQA Registration:** Is the provider registered by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA)?
2. **National Register Listing:** Is the RTO explicitly listed on training.gov.au to deliver that specific qualification or units of competency?
3. **Regulatory Sanctions:** Does the RTO have any current regulatory sanctions or conditions placed against them by ASQA?
4. **Industry Reputation:** Have you consulted key industry stakeholders (such as unions or employer associations) about the RTO's reputation?

Understanding the NSW Electrical Licensing Pathways

There are very few ways to obtain an electrical licence in NSW outside of a standard apprenticeship. Electrotechnology apprenticeships generally take four years under a formal training contract approved by Training Services NSW (Department of Education).

Alternative pathways—such as Overseas Trade Recognition (OSTR), the Trade Pathways for Experienced Workers (TPEW) program, or the Certificate of Proficiency process—require a rigorous demonstration of extensive, relevant, current industry experience. These programs demand strict proof of skills relating to specific units of competency. Furthermore, recognition via these alternative pathways usually requires candidates to be interviewed and trade-tested by TAFE NSW or another government-approved RTO. The ITAB will be developing a series of articles and news updates on this topic over the next few months, watch this space !

What's Your Next Career Move?

What if your next career move kept an entire city moving?

While most of Sydney sleeps, a team is already at work. The first train of the morning is only hours away. Above the tracks, kilometres of overhead power lines stretch across the network, carrying the energy that keeps Sydney moving. Before commuters' step onto platforms and families begin their day, you and your team have already inspected, maintained, and repaired the critical infrastructure that powers every journey.

As an Infrastructure Worker Traction /Linesperson, you'll play a vital role in keeping the Sydney Trains network safe, reliable, and ready for service. Whether you're replacing equipment, conducting inspections, responding to faults, or carrying out planned maintenance, your work helps ensure millions of journeys happen safely every year.



Safety is always at the heart of what you do. You understand that every decision matters, and you take pride in looking after your teammates and the community. You're someone

who notices the details, solves problems calmly, and enjoys the satisfaction of hands-on technical work.

You might already hold a Cert III in Distribution Overhead or ESI Rail Traction and have experience working in construction, maintenance, or a similar environment. You're comfortable working at heights, reading plans and specifications, operating plant and equipment, and adapting to new technology as the industry evolves.

At Sydney Trains, you're not just maintaining infrastructure, you're helping connect people to work, school, family, and opportunity. Every shift, every inspection, and every repair contribute to something much bigger than yourself.

What are you waiting for? Applications close: 11:59pm, 16th August 2026 for more information visit: [Infrastructure Worker Traction Job Details | Transport for NSW](#)

Essential Energy Training Academy

Essential Energy has placed a strategic pause on the development of their Training Academy. The decision provides provided Essential Energy an opportunity to review the academy's future role and consider market signals, partnerships and investment settings, required to support meaningful, long-term outcomes.

Essential Energy has stated that the need to build a skilled energy workforce, particularly as regional communities prepare for the energy transition. However, changes in the broader economic environment, timing and sequencing of major projects have highlighted the opportunity to further validate future demand and explore workforce needs across a broad range of sectors. For more information on the strategic pause visit: www.essentialenergy.com.au

Smart and Skilled Update

Changes to the 2026–27 Smart and Skilled program aim to improve planning certainty and funding allocation and include increased notice periods for contract arrangements to assist RTO delivery planning. The Department will continue to prioritise funded training in critical skills areas, including rail signalling, electrotechnology, electrical engineering, industrial electronics and control, apprenticeships and traineeships, and National Skills Agreement priorities such as the VET workforce, foundation skills and Closing the Gap.

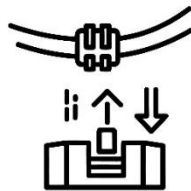
Fee-free places will be limited from 1 July, while support for fee-free apprenticeships and traineeships will continue. [Click here](#) to see the latest NSW Skills List (v17.0 1 July 2026)

NATIONAL UPDATE

V2X Everything Skills Sets Endorsed

The **V2X Accreditation – Vehicle to Everything** has been formally endorsed by the State and Territory Skills Ministers. The updated training products were published on 22 July 2026 and are now available on [Training.gov](https://training.gov.au).

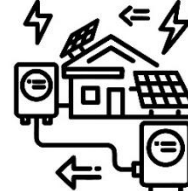
This included a new skillset: UEES40400 Plan, Install and Maintain Bidirectional Electric Vehicle Systems in a Low Voltage Environment.



grid-injection-point



bi-directional-meter



net-metering-logic

The new units of competencies are:

- UEERE4010 Plan the installation of bi-directional electric vehicle systems in a low voltage environment
- UEERE4011 Install bidirectional electric vehicle systems in a low voltage environment
- UEERE4012 Maintain, service and fault find bidirectional systems in a low voltage environment

Foundation For Energy: LLN for Energy Jobs

Australia needs thousands more skilled workers to deliver the energy transition. Yet many students who aspire to energy careers are not being equipped with the numeracy skills needed to succeed in technical apprenticeship pathways.

A national study of school curricula, energy trade qualifications and apprentice outcomes data has identified an opportunity to strengthen workforce growth by improving numeracy readiness. Many senior secondary pathways develop numeracy skills below the level required for energy apprenticeships — and the gap is contributing to 85% of electrical apprenticeship cancellations that happen in the first two years of training

The numbers tell the story:

- 3 in 10 energy apprentices do not complete their training
- 85% of electrotechnology apprenticeship cancellations occur in the first two years
- Australia faces a shortfall of around 42,000 energy workers by 2030

Here's the twist: it's not a motivation problem. Electrical trades are still one of the most popular picks among school students. The gap isn't interest, its alignment, students aren't getting the right guidance before they commit. For more information visit: [Foundation for Energy: Literacy and Numeracy for Energy Jobs | Powering Skills Organisation](#)

UEE Full Training Package Review

As readers would be aware that the UEE Training Package is currently under review. Draft qualifications and full units of competency (UOC) will be available for comment by the end of August 2026. A link to the draft materials will be provided in the August edition of the newsletter. As previously communicated, the ITAB needs to aware of your feedback and thoughts on these draft qualifications and UOC to ensure that NSW workforce development needs are met. Please send all comments to the me while you are providing feedback to PSO.

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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