

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **TAFEs ready to step up to the clean energy workforce challenge**

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) says the blueprint for developing the clean energy workforce released by Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) provides an important outline of the scale of the workforce and training effort that will be required over coming years.

The report, [The Clean Energy Generation: Workforce needs for a net zero economy](#), sets out a pathway to the skills, training and workforce needs to achieve Australia's emissions targets.

The report makes it clear that reaching net zero emissions by 2050 will be challenging, but not unprecedented.

One of the stark conclusions is that while workforce needs will exist across both VET and university qualifications, the greatest risk is a shortfall of VET qualified workers, especially amongst electricians and other trades.

"There is an enormous opportunity to grow the workforce to meet the net zero challenge and it is going to require significant effort and cooperation across TAFE, universities and industry," the Chief Executive Officer of TDA, Jenny Dodd said.

"Quite apart from the sheer number of people required, there will need to be innovation in the types of skills and qualifications on offer, the way that certain skills are embedded across different occupations, and the modes of delivery."

JSA's preliminary modelling shows Australia will need approximately 26,000 to 42,000 more electricians in the next seven years, and the clean energy supply workforce will likely need to grow from approximately 53,000 workers today to 84,000 by 2050.

Importantly, the report has, for the first time, provided a comprehensive definition of the clean energy workforce, across every area of the economy.

"It is a real opportunity to look at how we bring these vital skills to the next generation, and the opportunities for workers transitioning from other industries, as well as for women entering the sector and First Nations people," Ms Dodd said.

"With much of the growth in the workforce likely to occur in regional Australia, there is the chance for many new entrants right across the country, but this will add to the education and training effort that will be needed."

Ms Dodd said the TAFE sector is ready to work with government, stakeholders, universities, and through the planned TAFE Centres of Excellence to help deliver the thousands of highly skilled and well-paid jobs that will be needed.

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions and nine TAFEs that are also non-university higher education providers.