Australia’s Green Skills Policy Framework: Building capacity and capability

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Australia’s VET system

- Nationally agreed
- Industry leadership and engagement
- Provides skills and knowledge for work
- Strong quality frameworks
VET snapshot

- 1.8 million students in 2010
- 2,200 different courses of study
- About 5,000 Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) ranging from TAFEs to small private providers
- 32% of working age Australians have VET qualifications
Securing a Clean Energy Future

- Carbon price of $23 a tonne for 500 biggest polluters in Australia.
- The carbon price will be set by the market from 1 July 2015.
- The Plan includes a range of measures to support individuals, businesses and communities.
- This includes the $32 million Clean Energy and Other Skills Package.
Education and training opportunities for a Clean Energy Future
Australian Government climate change and sustainability policy and programs

Establishing a price on carbon emissions
- Securing Australia’s Clean Energy Future: The Australian Government’s Climate Change Plan

Driving investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation • Australian Renewable Energy Agency • Renewable Energy Target • National Strategy on Energy Efficiency

Supporting businesses, households and communities
- Clean Technology Program • Clean Energy Finance Corporation • Carbon Farming Initiative • Low Carbon Communities

Building the capability and capacity of the workforce
- Clean Energy and Other Skills Package • Green Skills Agreement • Skills for the Carbon Challenge • Workforce Innovation Program
The skills challenge

- Moving to a low carbon, clean energy economy will change the way Australians live, work and do business.

- Workers will need the skills to take advantage of the opportunities of a clean energy economy.

- Businesses will need workers who have skills in sustainability to meet demand for new cleaner and greener products and services.
A changing workforce

The shift to a clean energy economy will involve the creation of jobs in areas such as:

- renewable energy
- ecotourism
- carbon farming
- sustainable design

Demand for green skills will be greatest in these existing industries:

- construction
- energy
- mining
- manufacturing
- transport
- agriculture
- service-related industries

However, sustainability and energy efficiency skills, knowledge and attitudes will be important across all industries and occupations.
Australia targets green skills development, not the creation of green jobs

- Australia has not adopted a definition of a green job, nor does it deliver programs subsidising green job creation.

- Instead, the Australian Government has focussed on the concept of skills for sustainability, based on the premise that workers in all industries will need to develop green skills to support the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient economy.

**Skills for Sustainability**

‘the technical skills, knowledge, values and attitudes needed in the workforce to develop and support sustainable social, economic and environmental outcomes in business, industry and the community.’

- From the *Green Skills Agreement*
A strong sustainability policy foundation
Embedding sustainability in the VET system

The creation of a national Green Skills Agreement in 2009

• VET Providers
• Higher Education
• Trade Unions
• Industry Groups
• Australian Govt
• States & Territories

social
environmental
economic
**Green Skills Agreement - Objectives**

- Endorsed by Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in December 2009.

- The Agreement has four objectives:
  - Develop standards in skills for sustainability within the national regulatory framework
  - Upskill the VET workforce to deliver sustainability training
  - Review and revise national Training Packages to incorporate sustainability concepts and practices
  - Develop transition strategies for vulnerable workers
Green Skills Agreement - Progress to date

Sustainability principles and practices are now embedded in relevant Training Packages and Industry Skills Councils are developing training materials to support them.

A $1.1 million national professional development program:

- 580 fully-funded, accredited training places across all states and territories
- Sustainability Champions Program (80 places)
- TAE Sustainable Practice Skill Set Program (500 places)

Jobs and Skills Transition for the Latrobe Valley Project

- Phase 1: Benchmark occupations and skill sets report completed
Lessons from the *Green Skills Agreement*

- Green skills apply to all jobs, not just jobs in the environment sector
  - Includes the **technical skills** to deliver sustainable products and services.
  - Also includes the **non-technical skills** to communicate, negotiate and advocate for sustainable business practices and implement organisational change.

- A collaborative approach works best
  - The Australian Government works closely with the state and territory governments, which are responsible for training delivery, and a range of industry stakeholders to implement sustainable skills.

- Teachers and practitioners are the key change agents
  - The key to transmitting sustainable skills and knowledge to students is upskilling practitioners and teachers.
Skills for the Carbon Challenge projects

- Skills for a Sustainable Future employer survey
- sustainability.edu.au – launched in April 2011
- Murdi Paaki Green Skills Project
- Two sustainability teaching modules developed by ARIES @ Macquarie University:
  - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
  - Country and Sustainability
- Another tranche of projects about to get underway in 2012.
Clean Energy and Other Skills Package

- **Scoping Study**
  - **Trades training component**
    - 2011-12
    - Workforce Innovation Program (WIP)
  - **Professional training component**
    - 2012-13 WIP

- **Integrating energy efficiency skills**
  - 2011-12
  - National Workforce Development Fund (NWDF)
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