

RESOURCES INDUSTRY TRAINING COUNCIL COVID-19 UPDATE – MAY 2020

Industry training councils provide a direct link between Western Australian industry and the State Training Board. This infographic summarises industry feedback to the training council in March to May 2020.

JOBS LOST/IDLED*

Some laboratory workers
Resources maintenance and
construction workers



JOBS IN DEMAND*

Some trades serving the
resources sector
Health laboratories
Construction materials testing

*Between March - May 2020 there were redundancies, suspensions, terminations or reduced hours.

*Between March - May 2020 there was increased demand for workers or increased hours for existing workers.

IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- To reduce the need to travel, resources companies are extending shift rosters, reducing site-based workforces, suspending exploration work and relocating staff.
- Laboratories are having difficulty accessing Construction Materials Testing staff from outside of Western Australia (who normally work FIFO).



JOBKEEPER

- Many workers stood down by maintenance and construction contractors are not eligible for JobKeeper.
- In the laboratory and plastics sectors, many staff are seasonal, project-based or casual, so are not eligible for JobKeeper.
- JobKeeper has been critical for the process manufacturing sector to enable it to retain employment relationships with skilled workers.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Some laboratories are required to have fewer staff on the floor to maintain social distancing. This is impacting productivity and rosters.
- Social distancing requirements have had an impact on site work arrangements.

The resource sector is committed to apprenticeship training and companies have sought to maximise site access for apprentices during the pandemic. Continuity of resource sector activity has generated significant royalty revenue for Government and the maintenance of sector jobs.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS



LABORATORY UPSKILLING

- With the loss of interstate workers qualified to conduct National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accredited testing, industry needs local workers upskilled in Certificate IV for Laboratory Operations, Diploma of Laboratory Technology and the Advanced Diploma of Laboratory Techniques.



LABORATORY PRE-TRAINEESHIPS

- Industry has suggested pre-traineeships be developed and delivered during the COVID-19 period, which could be continued as traineeships during pandemic recovery. This would assist students in qualifications with substantial work placement requirements, which are currently suspended.



RETURNING WORKERS

- With some maintenance contractors not having potentially worked for a number of months, there may be opportunities for safety-based short course training to be conducted as a familiarisation prior to them returning to site to resume work.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



RESOURCES SERVICES

- Enhanced cleaning requirements on sites and camps may require a larger workforce.
- Once site restrictions are eased (including necessary roster patterns), it is expected maintenance backlogs and shutdown activity will be prioritised. This will create additional short-term demand for a range of maintenance trades.



HEALTH WORKERS FOR THE RESOURCE SECTOR

- To meet testing demand, some displaced health workers have conducted COVID health checks for resource workers before site deployment. Industry anticipate losing these health workers when pandemic measures are relaxed.