

Dear Everyone,

Re: Current review of Surveying and Spatial Information vocational qualifications for the TAFE sector.

'Artibus Innovation', the company engaged by the Federal Government to oversee the development of Vocational Qualifications in Surveying and Spatial Information, is currently reviewing the Surveying and Spatial Information Services suite of qualifications delivered in the TAFE sector.

A technical Advisory group TAG, (Jo Jensen is representing WA) is steering the project supported by 2 subject matter working groups, 1 for surveying (Peter Douglas and I are representing WA) and 1 for Spatial information.

At the last TAG meeting in February, decisions were made with respect to the future structure of the qualifications that could have a negative impact on TAFE training in WA. Unfortunately, WA was not represented at that meeting. The draft proposal for the suite of surveying courses was very concerning for WA as it proposed removing the following qualifications:

- Certificate II in Surveying and SIS
- Certificate III in Surveying and SIS
- Advanced Diploma in Surveying.

These recommendations would have a huge impact on the surveying profession in Western Australia. Not only would it reduce the duration of training and underpinning skills and knowledge received by our TAFE trained surveyors, it would limit their professional standing in the surveying community. This would also have a detrimental effect on the mining sector as the Advanced Diploma provides the additional year of training and mining specialisation required for Mine Surveyor Authorisation in WA. The proposal had the potential to eliminate the mine surveyor authorisation pathway via TAFE.

A feedback webinar was held on Friday 3rd April 2020, with approx. 50 participants from throughout Australia. Generally participants supported the concerns expressed by the WA, Victorian and other participants and agreed that the Certificates II and III in Surveying and Spatial Information and the Advanced Diploma of Surveying should be retained.

However there are still some states that do not support this stance and we ask WA surveyors to complete the updated survey produced by Artibus, reflecting the resolutions at the webinar and to ensure that we retain the full suite of surveying qualifications delivered in WA.

The survey is open until 30th April 2020 but please complete it now before you forget. You can access the survey by copying the link below into your web browser. I have provided you with more information below on the need to retain all these qualifications and urge you to read this to inform your responses.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K9JXMFS>

Background

In Western Australia, North Metropolitan TAFE currently delivers the following qualifications:

Qualification	Completion time
Certificate III in Surveying and SIS – 6 months	6 months
Certificate IV in Surveying – 6 months	6 months
Diploma in Surveying – 1 year	1 year
Advanced Diploma in Surveying -1 year	1 year
Total	3 years

We also deliver the Certificate II in Surveying and Spatial Information Services – 12 months to a small group of Indigenous students. We do not deliver any of the skills sets in WA.

This suite of qualifications has been endorsed by members of our engineering and mining surveying profession over many years and was reinforced by engineering and mining surveyors across the profession who attended a workshop towards the end of 2018.

A student who wishes to enter the engineering and mining surveying profession by means of a TAFE qualification will enter at the Certificate III level and complete up to 3 years of study to graduate with the Advanced Diploma of Surveying. As students work through the suite of qualifications, they generally gain work experience to support and consolidate their underpinning knowledge and skills. Some students leave to gain full time employment after completing the Diploma of Surveying and some continue on to the Advanced Diploma of Surveying prior to commencing full time employment. We also have students who are already working as FIFO employees who study part time on their return to Perth.

A 3 year qualification is required for a surveyor in WA to become an Authorised Mine Surveyor. A 3 qualification is also required for Engineering Surveying Certification through the Surveying and Spatial Sciences Institute. As such, we often have students who have only completed the Diploma of Surveying come back to TAFE to complete their Advanced Diploma of Surveying.

Proposed redeveloped Diploma of Spatial Information Services	TAFE in WA does not deliver this course
Skills sets	TAFE in WA does not deliver any of these skills sets

Thanking you

Jo Jensen – Business Development and Mine Services Coordinator



Peter Douglas - Licensed Surveyor, FSSSI,



Shane Watson - Shane Watson, Vice President – Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS)



Pat Burke Principal Lecturer NMTAFE, Lecturer in Surveying

