

SKILLING THE WATER INDUSTRY

AIS is appointed by the Australian Government as a Skills Service Organisation (SSO) to support the Water Industry Reference Committee (IRC) to develop contemporary, future-focused qualifications that create career pathways and support industry growth and productivity.

INDUSTRY REFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Water IRC is made up of industry leaders and experts from all over Australia and is chaired by George Wall, Water Industry Operators Association of Australia (WIOA). It is responsible for ensuring the NWP Water Training Package meets the needs of industry and provides nationally recognised Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualifications for occupations.

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY STANDARDS - SKILLS SERVICE ORGANISATION

AIS provides high quality secretariat support and capability for industry engagement, research and analysis, project management and communications to produce world-class training products.

SSOs support and facilitate industry engagement on behalf of the IRC's while remaining independent from both industry and the training sector.

As an SSO we:

- facilitate engagement across the water industry and training sector
- facilitate the development of Training Packages for consideration by the Water IRC
- provide project management, information management, operational and secretariat support
- provide technical writing skills to support the Water IRC in preparing Training Package products
- manage the Water Training Package through the endorsement process on behalf of the IRCs.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Australian VET system aims to provide individuals with work-ready skills for the labour market – skills that businesses and industries need to be highly productive and internationally competitive.

Training Packages specify the skills and knowledge required to perform effectively in the workplace. These skills are captured in Units of Competency which are packaged into nationally recognised qualifications and industry recognised Skill Sets.

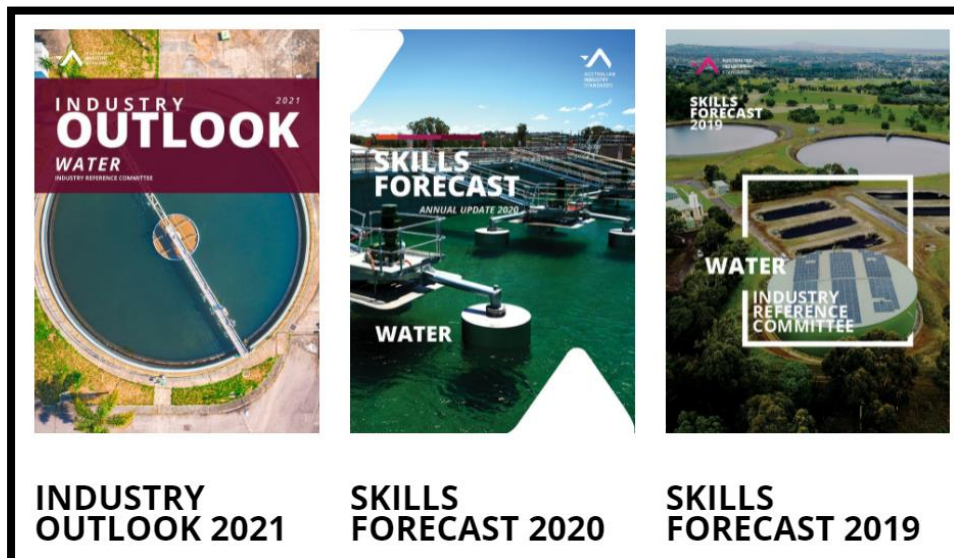
Training Packages are developed through an extensive consultation process, under the leadership of the IRC, with numerous stakeholders including employer and employee representatives, peak bodies, industry regulators, State and Territory Training Authorities, Industry Training Advisory Bodies and the public.

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

Each year AIS creates an Industry Outlook with help from the Water IRC that provides an environmental scan of the water industry focusing on:

- prioritisation of skill needs for each water industry sector
- information in relation to workforce development
- training package work identified by the IRC.

Image: Industry Outlook/Skills Forecast



This year AIS will be developing a combined 2022 Industry Outlook for the energy and water sectors which will provide information about the megatrends affecting industry and new or emerging technologies and skills needs.

Image: Sample Page - Industry Outlook

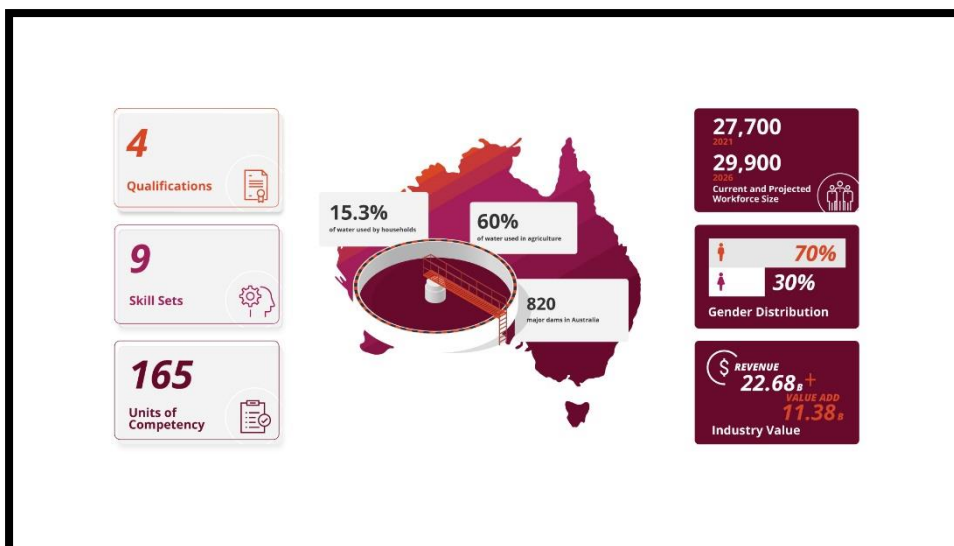
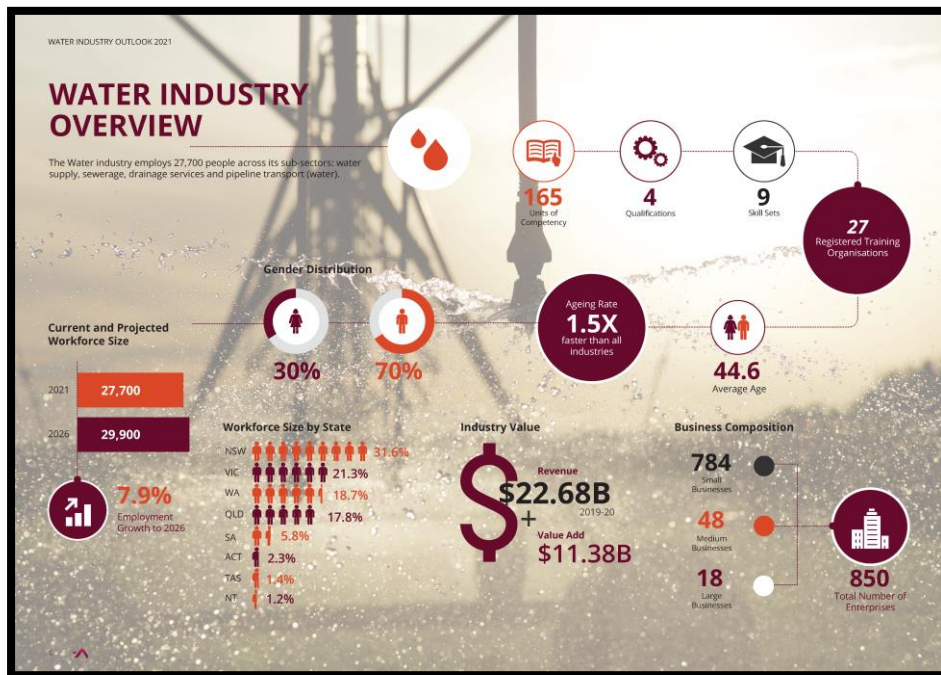


Image: Sample Page - Industry Outlook



NWP NATIONAL WATER TRAINING PACKAGE

The current version of the NWP Training Package contains the following occupational skills standards:

- 4 Qualifications
- 9 Skill Sets
- 165 Units of Competency

Since AIS started providing the Water IRC with secretariat duties (2016) the entire NWP Training Package has been rewritten. The previous qualifications have been streamlined and specialisations updated. All units and skill sets have been reviewed and updated.

CURRENT PROJECTS

There are currently two projects in progress for the water industry:

1. Flood Site Operations
2. Water Network Maintenance

The Flood Site Operations project is developing one new Unit of Competency and a Skill Set to address specific skills for undertaking flood management and site operations and enable flood warning sites to be operated to a higher and more consistent standard.

The Water Network Maintenance project involves the development of three new Units of Competency and the updating of an existing unit. These units will enable operators to develop the skills and knowledge for the following:

- Cleaning networks using air scouring, chemical or swabbing techniques
- Maintaining network assets using high pressure water systems
- Using digital imaging equipment in the field
- Flushing made explicit rather than inferred in the existing unit.

Release of the NWP Training Package 5.0 should be updated and available on www.training.gov.au before the end of 2022.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED?

Register for updates on the AIS website <http://www.australianindustrystandards.org.au>

Provide feedback to Trish either by E: tricia.fidock@aistnds.org.au or M: 0409 872 933.

Notify Trish of any typing errors, inconsistency in terminology or skill errors in NWP training products for consideration for correction by the IRC, at the next meeting.

GOING FORWARD

The system is changing keep *UpToDate* via the Department of Education, Skills and Employment. [Skills Reform and Consultation - Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Australian Government \(dese.gov.au\)](https://www.dese.gov.au/skills-reform-and-consultation)