

INDUSTRY BRIEFING SESSION

Q&A

BACKGROUND

The Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery (OMTID) is partnering with industry and key training departments in a new initiative designed to create a sustainable civil construction industry and provide opportunities and pathways for the unemployed to be part of Western Australia's major transport infrastructure boom.

The Infrastructure Ready Skill Set program is aiming to develop a pipeline of 'job-ready' employees, by teaching basic measurement and calculation skills relevant to construction, industry standard safety practices and the ability to operate small plant and equipment used on construction projects. The training program will include a one week supervised work placement with a civil contractor, which may lead to an offer of an apprenticeship/ traineeship and/or further employment.

The four-week training program will begin in late October 2020 with the first round of 'job-ready' participants given the opportunity to gain entry-level positions with construction contractors from the civil construction industry by early 2021.

Key industry partners include the Civil Contractors Federation (CCF), the Construction Contractors Association (CCA) and the Construction Training Fund (CTF). Employers interested in signing up to this program can register their interest by emailing irp@dtwd.wa.gov.au.

Q: There is currently a large pipeline of work for contractors on the Statewide and Rural Panel contracts. Will the new initiative be expanded for these contracts, too?

A: Yes, however it will be implemented after the pilot program. The State has an unprecedented asset management program and near 50% of the contracts have been tendered. If a new panel contract is required, then another round of panel contracts will be developed.

Q: Is this initiative in conjunction with the Aboriginal Participation initiative within the current suite of contracts?

A: No. This initiative will work in parallel with the current Aboriginal Participation initiative.

Q: Are there any current vacancies on projects?

A: Yes. There are vacancies, and there will be more in the future. Details are being finalised over the coming months.

Q: Is the Work Placement during Week 4 of the Infrastructure Ready Program covered by insurance?

A: Yes. If the applicant is still enrolled under the Program, the participant is covered under the training providers insurance.

Q: Will the participants from the Infrastructure Ready SkillSet Program be supplied with PPE for their work placement?

A: Yes. participants will be supplied with PPE if they are a Job Seeker. Otherwise they will need to obtain their own PPE. PPE will include steel capped (ankle, laced) work boots, long sleeve hi-viz shirt, and gloves.

Q: For this initiative to work, is there a future in the civil construction space for people to grow?

A: The Infrastructure Delivery Program provides a good overview of the next 4 years. This is the current known works. The transport sector is a stable industry with a continuous pipeline of works.

Q: Will the initiative be extended to the sub-contractor and supplier networks?

A: Yes, only for top tier subcontractors and suppliers, as it is acknowledged that civil construction subcontractors also supply labour.

Q: Will the participants in the program pilot be showcased?

A: Yes. The success of the program will be the generator of new candidates. We will continue to work closely with industry for avenues to showcase and promote the participants and the benefits to the industry.

Q: There is a risk that the resource sector may seek our participants for their industry. Can this be prevented?

A: The work placements as part of the Infrastructure Ready Program will enable construction contractors to offer employment to participants prior to the participant's graduation. This is similar to other industries that provide work placements for students.

Q: Many Job Seekers have expressed an interest in the program, and the opportunity to work for a construction company. How will this be managed?

A: Interested participants will need to complete the Infrastructure Ready program or the Certificate II in Civil Construction, and be unemployed, to be considered as a *work ready new entrant employee*.