



**CIVIL CONTRACTORS  
FEDERATION**

CCF NATIONAL OFFICE

ABN 41 639 349 350

Unit 13, Level 3, Engineering House  
11 National Circuit  
Barton ACT 2600

E [ccfnat@civilcontractors.com](mailto:ccfnat@civilcontractors.com)

[www.civilcontractors.com](http://www.civilcontractors.com)

31 March 2020

## Media Release – For immediate release

### COVID-19 Response Requires Urgent Listing of Civil Construction Occupations

The Civil Contractors Federation (CCF) is urging the Federal Government to ensure critical civil construction occupations are officially listed as essential skills on the Australian Governments 'National Skills Needs List' to help in the fight against COVID-19. *(The National Skills Needs List identifies trades that are determined as experiencing a national skills shortage).*

"I commend the Federal Government for its announcement of the \$10 million National Careers Institute grants program to help job seekers gain access to high-quality information about the pathways available through vocational education and training and the CCF looks forward to participating in this program," Chris Melham, Chief Executive Officer of Civil Contractors Federation National said.

"However, an overhaul of the National Skills Needs List is urgently required to enable civil construction occupations to be eligible for federal government funding under the *Incentives for Australian Apprenticeships* program which is due to commence on 1 July 2020," he said.

CCF's recent [submission](#) on the review of the *Australian Apprenticeships National Skills Needs List* outlines the infrastructure and construction skills urgently requiring formal recognition. These skills include, for example, bridge, road and tunnel constructors, civil plant operators, pipe layers and line markers.

"The civil construction industry is ready, willing and able to provide employment opportunities for new entrants into the industry including those who may have been displaced from their jobs due to cuts in other parts of the economy," he said.

Appropriately classifying civil construction occupations on the List is desperately required to ensure apprentices, VET providers, and employers gain access to funding incentives which in turn will bring new entrants into our industry via the delivery of employer sponsored apprenticeships during these uncertain economic times", Mr Melham concluded.

For further information: Mr Duncan Sheppard  
Executive Officer  
Telephone: 0438 330 039

#### Note to Editors:

*The Civil Contractors Federation ('CCF') is the peak employer body representing over 2,000 companies engaged in civil construction in every jurisdiction of Australia. CCF Members are responsible for the construction and maintenance of Australia's infrastructure, including roads, bridges, pipelines, drainage, ports and utilities. CCF members also play a vital role in the residential and commercial building construction industry by providing earthmoving and land development services including the provision of power, water, communications and gas.*

*"The peak voice of the Civil Construction Sector"*