



Australian Government  
Jobs and Skills Australia

28 May 2024

## Draft Core Skills Occupations List for Consultation

Dear Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA)

### Introduction

We thank the government for the opportunity to participate in the consultation process regarding the draft Core Skills Occupations List (CSOL).

### PART ONE – INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 About company

Japan Australia LNG (MIMI) Pty Ltd ('MIMI') was established in 1985 as a 50-50 joint venture between Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsui & Co., Ltd.

MIMI holds a one-sixth equity interest in the North West Shelf Venture (NWS Venture), producing natural gas, LNG, condensate, crude oil and LPG from the enormous gas and oil fields located on the North West Shelf, offshore Karratha in Western Australia (WA). The project supplies 65% of the gas required by the WA domestic market. It also produces around 12 million tons of LNG a year for the Japanese and South Korean markets.

MIMI also has a 14.4% equity interest in the Browse Joint Venture, MIMI remains committed to the earliest commercial development of Browse resources, located offshore approximately 425 km north of Broome in WA.

Australia's partnership with Japan is fundamental to both countries' strategic and economic interests. The Australia-Japan economic relationship is highly complementary and enduring. Japan became Australia's largest trading partner in the early 1970s – a position it has maintained for 36 years. In FY2022-23, Australia's major merchandise exports to Japan included AUD34.7 billion worth of natural gas. Japanese investment will continue to play a significant role in the development of the Australian economy, including through the net zero transition. Japanese investment has been essential in the development of many of the export industries, including expansion of Australia's LNG production.<sup>1</sup>

MIMI's head office is based in Perth, WA. MIMI's annual turnover for the most recent financial year was over 1.4 billion Australian dollars. MIMI currently employs 35 employees. At present, 12 of these positions are filled by Japanese expatriate staff.

Japanese expatriate staff are critical to MIMI and the success of the investment projects. They bring unique skills and experiences, which are critical to maintain communication with the stakeholders. They also possess specialist experience and in-depth knowledge of the business and MIMI's associated entities. Most expatriates spend a maximum of three years in Perth's MIMI office prior to being reassigned. MIMI does not support staff applications for permanent residency. During their time in Perth, expatriate staff contribute to the local economy by purchasing vehicles, renting accommodation and holidaying. Upon returning to Japan, expatriates are able to provide further insight into and support for the ongoing investment in the Australian energy sector.

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<sup>1</sup> [Japan country brief | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade \(dfat.gov.au\)](https://dfat.gov.au)

We provide this submission regarding the following occupations:

Occupation	Draft list
111211 - Corporate General Manager	Targeted for consultation
132111 - Corporate Services Manager	Targeted for consultation
132211 - Finance Manager	Targeted for consultation

### 1.2 Commitment to local talent acquisition

MIMI is committed to employing from the local Australian labour market. Our voluntary turn-over is almost zero and has been very low for many years. Local staff comprise our technical capability (geoscience, engineering) as well as support services such as Finance, IT, Legal and HR. Local hiring typically focusses on individuals who are fully competent in their particular area. Naturally, professional and ongoing development is an important part of MIMI’s employee value proposition.

However, due to the nature of our business, there are specific roles that require unique skills and experiences, which cannot be filled by the local labour market. This is relevant to the roles which correspond to the occupations listed in PART 2 below.

### 1.3 Utilisation of temporary skilled migration

It is important for the business that the positions in the below listed occupations are available for employer sponsorship to enable intra-corporate transfers of current employees of MIMI’s associated entities. It is business critical that the candidates bring the necessary proprietary commercial knowledge to enable informed decision-making on significant investment projects. Japanese intra-corporate transferees bridge cultural and language differences, which are critical to developing and maintaining clear communication with stakeholders. Their physical presence in Australia at stakeholder meetings also demonstrate to joint venture partners that MIMI is committed to achieving shared development goals.

## PART TWO – SUBMISSIONS ON OCCUPATIONS

### 2.1 ‘Confident on list’

We agree that the following occupations appear on the Confident on list, as over the years our business have relied on these occupations to sponsor overseas talent to fill business critical roles:

- 111111 - Chief Executive or Manager Director
- 131112 - Sales and Marketing Manager
- 132511 - Research and Development Manager
- 224712 - Organisation and Methods Analyst
- 233612 - Petroleum Engineer

MIMI (along with the entire hydrocarbons industry in Australia) faces many challenges in bringing the Browse Development to fruition. Browse gas will provide a critical energy source as Australia and the world transitions towards greater reliance on renewable sources of energy. Ensuring access to the right skills (cultural, linguistic and commercial) is critical for maintaining excellent communication and alignment with our Tokyo-based shareholders.

### 2.2 ‘Targeted for consultation list’

We submit that the below occupations should be on a CSOL list. Below is the number of visa holders who have been nominated by MIMI in these occupations to date.

Occupation	Number of visa holders
111211 - Corporate General Manager	3
132111 - Corporate Services Manager	6
132211 - Finance Manager	5

Given the importance of MIMI’s activities to Australia, in particular the North West Shelf Project and the prospective Browse Development, and taking into account the specialist experience and in-depth knowledge of the global methodologies the

sponsored persons bring, it is critical that MIMI can continue to sponsor the intra-corporate transferees from its associated entities in these occupations.

**Conclusion**

MIMI looks forward to presenting our ideas for further reform during ongoing collaborative engagement with JSA.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission to JSA.

Yours sincerely

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[Redacted contact information]