



ENGINEERS
AUSTRALIA

Jobs and Skills Australia
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
GPO Box 9828
Canberra ACT 2601

9 August 2024

To whom it may concern,

Engineers Australia's feedback to the National Skills Taxonomy Discussion Paper

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the National Skills Taxonomy Discussion Paper. Engineers Australia appreciates the initiative by Jobs and Skills Australia to develop a National Skills Taxonomy (NST) to replace Australian Skills Classification.

As Australia's national body for engineering, we are the voice and champion of our 130,000-plus members. We provide them with the resources, connections, and growth they need to do ethical, competent and high-value work in our communities. A mission-based, not-for-profit professional body, Engineers Australia is constituted by Royal Charter to advance the science and practice of engineering for the benefit of the community.

Engineers Australia maintains national professional standards, benchmarked against international norms. As Australia's signatory to the International Engineering Alliance, this includes accreditation of undergraduate university engineering programs.

Under the Migration Regulations 1994, Engineers Australia is the designated assessing authority to perform the assessment of the potential migrant engineering professionals' skills, qualifications, and/or work experience to determine if they meet the occupational standards needed for employment in Australia.

Engineers Australia firmly supports the National Skills Taxonomy (NST) initiative, recognising its pivotal role in categorising and organising skills to provide a unified language for workers, employers, and education providers. A robust NST can effectively bridge the gaps between occupations, qualifications, and industries, thereby enhancing occupational mobility and fostering a more adaptable workforce.

For the engineering profession in Australia, Engineers Australia has established the Professional Standards Framework (PSF), a comprehensive system of policies, processes, and resources designed to guide and support engineers in practicing ethically and competently. Our taxonomy aligns with that of the International Engineering Alliance, upholding international standards and ensuring the global mobility of engineers.

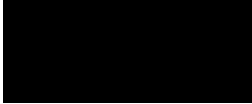
Engineers Australia endorses the seven NST principles outlined in the discussion paper. We particularly emphasise the importance of the "Interoperable" principle, which is described as "supporting and enhancing frameworks without replacing them to facilitate integrated solutions that bridge education and employment sectors." This principle is critical in ensuring that the NST complements and enhances current systems rather than superseding them.

In the development of the NST database, it is important to consider the skills, competencies, and proficiency levels associated with different occupational categories within the engineering workforce (such as Engineering Technologist, Engineering Associate, and Professional Engineer). Ensuring that the

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definitions of engineering-specific skills within the NST are consistent with Engineers Australia's already established taxonomy will facilitate better application and integration by engineering professionals. This consistency will also align Australian definitions of engineering skills, competencies, and proficiency levels with those of the international engineering community.

By adhering to these principles, the NST will not only support the engineering profession in Australia but also contribute to the global recognition and mobility of Australian engineers. Engineers Australia looks forward to collaborating with Jobs and Skills Australia to realise the full potential of the National Skills Taxonomy. Please feel free to contact Caitlin Buttress, Head of Advocacy, at cbuttress@engineersaustralia.org.au to discuss this feedback further.



Jenny Mitchell

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