



Introduction. The 2024 WA Jobs, Education and Training (WAJET) Industry Survey required a 600 word profile on each occupation. Below is 712918 Train Controller. The text below is open source and free for use when LDSC is correctly acknowledged. The text is open to correction. The Logistics and Defence Council (LDSC) welcomes input on 08 9388 8781 or <https://www.ldsc.asn.au/contact.html>

Industry Advisory Group. LDSC invites stakeholders to join our Rail Industry Advisory Group 08 9388 8781 or <https://www.ldsc.asn.au/contact.html>

Based on your Rail industry consultations and the feedback provided please provide a 600 word summary for Occupation ANZSCO 712918 Train Controller

Definition. The Rail occupation ANZSCO 712918 Train or Network Controller oversees the safe movement of trains using a computerised train control signalling system. ANZSCO Skill level is 4.

Roles. Rail traffic is controlled across the network from a desktop workstation in a control room by 712918 Train Controller. Train control involves activity on desktop displays. There may be heavy use of radio to communicate with track maintenance and train crews. The occupation Train or Network Controller has grown with electronic signalling, Rail communications and autonomous trains. The job includes tasks that were once with the mechanical signal work of 712917 Railway Signal Operator on the track or in a signal box. With autonomous trains the Train Controller conducts tasks once with drivers, shunters, operators and maintainers. For example the Train Controller will react to faults and may despatch track teams.

Workforce shortage. WA stakeholders report the shortage of Train Controller as acute and persistent. Jobs and Skills Australia reports a National and WA Shortage. One WA company reported 16 vacancies and established a Labour Agreement to bring Train Controllers from the UK.

Supply factors are:

- Aging out of Rail workforce
- Aging out of Rail Trainers and Assessors
- Fragmented Rail workforce training pipeline
- Competition for Engineers and supporting technical workforce
- National Rail Skills Shortage
- Perception / Image of the Rail Industry
- Rail ANZSCO codes need review to current industry occupations
- Uncoordinated Migration plan
- Regional Housing and Remote Lifestyle

Demand factors are:

- Global demand for WA iron ore
- Global demand for WA wheat
- METRONET construction
- National Rail Action Plan 2020
- Naval Shipbuilding Plan 2017 including SSN-AUKUS
- WA world leading networks demanding technicians in Autonomous Trains, Electronic Signalling and integrated logistics
- Demand shift from METRONET construction to operations to maintenance

Workforce location. 712918 Train Controller is located in control rooms in population centres on the rail network. Regions of demand of strategic importance to the Australian economy are:

- Pilbara: WA the largest exporter in the world of iron ore
- Wheatbelt - Great Southern: WA the largest exporter in Australia for wheat
- Perth Metropolitan Area for METRONET

Industry career pathways. Core skills for Train Controllers can be achieved in six months. A training period of 12 to 18 months is needed to develop the skills and experience to operate independently. WA stakeholders train network controllers in-house as Enterprise Registered Training Organisations to TLI40921 - Certificate IV in Rail Network Control. For example the Public Transport Authority and Arc Infrastructure. WA companies purchase training from Private RTO like CERTRAIL and Railtrain. Stakeholders acknowledge a poor fit of WA TAFE training to Rail career pathways plus weaknesses of the Apprenticeship - Traineeship system in the WA context. Training and assessment require a control room. Training therefore requires partnerships to share capital investment in infrastructure. In WA these partnerships are weak.

Qualifications. There are no mandated qualifications to work as 712918 Train Controller. The preferred qualification is TLI40921 Certificate IV in Rail Network Control.

Skill set. The persistent workforce shortage has created an appetite in stakeholders for a TAFE Skill Set like TLISS00224 Rail Operations Fundamentals. This will contribute to the Rail Industry Worker card (RIW) competencies like TLIF0020 Safely access the rail corridor.

Long term development of WA Rail training. There is an industry demand for partnerships with North Metro and Pilbara TAFEs and development of the National Rail Skills Academy as described under the National Rail Action Plan 2020 and proposed by the Australasian Railway Association.

Short term migration. In the short term all Rail occupations need to be in all migration lists until the WA training solution is delivering workforce.

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