



Introduction. The 2024 WA Jobs, Education and Training (WAJET) Industry Survey required a 600 word profile on each occupation. 721914 Railway Track Plant Operator. 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 721914 Railway Track Plant Operator

Definition. The ANZSCO definition of 721914 Railway Track Plant Operator is 'operates plant to lay, align, repair and maintain railway tracks. Registration or licensing may be required.' The ANZSCO Skill level is 4.

Roles. WA stakeholders feel the modern rail track team has crossover between the ANZSCO codes 721914 Railway Track Plant Operator and 821611 Railway Track Worker. These two occupations work together on 'Below Ground' track construction, operation and maintenance. Once the track is inspected and certified then 'Track Handover' tells the 'Above Ground' team that the railway is safe for traffic. The Rail Track Worker generally progresses to Plant Operator by achieving plant licences. Stakeholders feel 712917 Railway Signal Operator is redundant. Technology has moved from mechanical signals to electronic signalling and telecommunications. For example Public Transport Authority track teams require electrical skills relating to locomotives, rollingstock, power, overhead line and network control.

Workforce location. Naturally 721914 Railway Track Plant Operator is located 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

Workforce shortage. WA stakeholders report the shortage of 721914 Railway Track Plant Operator as acute and persistent. Jobs and Skills Australia reports a National and WA Shortage.

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 construction to operations and maintenance

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

Industry career pathways. Stakeholders acknowledge a poor fit of WA TAFE training to Rail career pathways plus weaknesses of the Apprenticeship - Traineeship system in the WA context. Rail training and assessment requires a track, rolling stock and locomotives. Rail training therefore requires partnerships to share capital investment in infrastructure. In WA these partnerships are weak. Large companies like Arc, John Holland, Aurizon and Public Transport Authority train in-house as Enterprise Registered Training Organisations (RTO) to TLI27121 Certificate II and TLI37122 Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure. WA companies also purchase training from Private RTO like CERTRAIL and Railtrain.

Qualifications. Railway Track Plant Operators hold relevant plant licences and generally a Rail Industry Worker card (RIW) as established by the Australasian Railway Association to meet competency obligations under Rail Safety National Law. There are no mandated qualifications to work as a Railway Track Plant Operator. Preferred qualifications are:

- Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure TLI27121
- Certificate III in Rail Infrastructure TLI37122

Skill set. The persistent workforce shortage has created an appetite in stakeholders for a TAFE foundation 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 appetite 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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