



RTBU

Jobs and Skills Australia Discussion Paper
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Email: jsaengagement@dewr.gov.au

SUBMISSION TO JOBS AND SKILLS AUSTRALIA DISCUSSION PAPER

The Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) appreciates this opportunity to provide feedback on the Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) discussion paper.

The RTBU believes that the establishment of Jobs and Skills Australia is a worthwhile addition to the institutional framework for underpinning Australia's vocational training and workforce planning system. Our industries are experiencing rapid technological change. This is creating a vast upskilling and reskilling challenge that needs unprecedented levels of collaboration between industry stakeholders.

To that end, the RTBU was relieved to see that Australian Industry Standards (AIS) was selected to run the Jobs and Skills Council (JSC) for the Transport and Logistics sectors. We have confidence that the new JSC for Transport and Logistics will play a critical and successful role in identifying skills and workforce needs for the rail, tram and bus industries.

We are concerned, however, that the operating model for Jobs and Skills Australia outlined on page 7 of the discussion paper lists JSCs as just one stakeholder among an extensive list. While the RTBU recognises that the stakeholders including in this list (including unions) have important contributions to make, we believe that JSCs should have an elevated status as a critical part of the institutional framework, and not be just another stakeholder.

Indeed, Minister for Skills and Training Hon Brendan O'Connor MP has previously described the intended relationship between JSA and the JSCs in the following terms:

"JSCs will work in partnership with Jobs and Skills Australia (JSA) to align workforce planning for their sectors. This is an essential first step in determining job roles, skills needs and training pathways, combining industry-specific intelligence with JSA's forecasting and modelling." (Media Release '\$402 million Jobs and Skills Councils to strengthen our skills sector', 13 December 2022).

While JSA will deal with the macro view of skills across the economy, JSCs will be directly engaged with the industries they represent and will be able to bring micro-level insights into industry conditions. These insights could validate intelligence and data analysis provided by JSA, or indicate areas where more research and consultation is required.

Rail, Tram & Bus Union Australia **The Power of Union**

Office: Suite 5.01, Level 5, 377-383 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: 02 8203 6099 **Fax:** 02 9319 2096

In short, the role of JSCs should be better represented in discussion paper to ensure that JSA and JSCs do, in practice, work together and in a coherent and collaborative manner.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'M' followed by a long horizontal stroke that curves upwards at the end.

Mark Diamond
NATIONAL SECRETARY