

Skills Tasmania

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Dr Alexis Wadsley
Senior Policy Analyst
Department of Premier and Cabinet
Level 7, 15 Murray Street
HOBART TAS 7000

Dear Dr Wadsley

Tasmania's Place in the Asian Century

I am writing to provide additional information from Skills Tasmania to supplement our contribution to the Department of Education's submission.

As part of its mandate for policy, strategy and purchasing related to skills, training and workforce development, Skills Tasmania is actively working with major industry sectors with potential to benefit from the growth in Asian economies.

In partnership with industry associations and leading employers, Skills Tasmania is mapping out the future workforce needs in KEY Asia-focussed industries such as agriculture, aquaculture and seafood processing, mining, tourism and hospitality.

The Agriculture Industry Skills Plan acknowledges that "Markets are continuously changing and the position held by Tasmanian agriculture in the value chain is undergoing key transitions (eg from commodity-centred to include fresh market, high value, value-added and high nutritional content product). Consumer preferences are also changing in line with demographic changes in both Australian and global populations." (Agriculture Industry Skills Plan October 2011)."

The Seafood Industry Workforce Plan (which will be finalised later this month) situates workforce development priorities and an industry action plan in the context of potential growth of export growth into Asian markets.

Industry workforce plans identify and validate new and emerging skill needs in areas such as market development, product design and consumer trends as well as biosecurity, food quality and supply chain logistics. This intelligence informs Skills Tasmania's purchasing arrangements with registered training organisations (RTOs).

Through our competitive funding arrangements, Skills Tasmania encourages businesses to collaborate with RTOs to re-skill or up skill workers to take advantage of increased trade and new markets. We are beginning to see an increase in the capability of RTOs to offer "Asia Ready" training services and I am confident that TasTAFE will have this on its strategic agenda, particularly in tourism and hospitality training.

Should you wish to discuss the above matters or seek further information about Skills Tasmania's industry workforce plans or competitive programs, please contact Ian Paterson, Manager Workforce Development on 6233 7151 or by email to ian.paterson@skills.tas.gov.au .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in orange ink, appearing to read 'C A Berryman', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dr C A Berryman
GENERAL MANAGER, SKILLS TASMANIA