

### Certificate II in Arboriculture

The revised Certificate II in Arboriculture has been radically redesigned in consultation with industry to become a more effective entry pathway and ‘taster’ qualification that can be successfully completed by senior secondary school students to attract workers into the industry. Key changes include:

- Reduced from 20 to 11 units (all core).
  - The core units provide the skills and knowledge required specified by industry to operate as a ground-based tree worker across the industry.
  - The reduced qualification size will make it more appealing to be delivered as part of a VET in Schools program.
- Specifically designed to focus on practical skills (use of tools, equipment and machinery), in order to produce highly employable ground-based tree workers, and also to better engage with learners in secondary schools.

### Certificate III in Arboriculture

The Certificate III in Arboriculture has been redesigned and includes the following changes:

- Reduced from 23 to 18 units (9 core and 9 electives) by amalgamating units, removing prerequisite units and other units that industry advised did not add value.
- Three new specialisations have been included to cover - Crane, Environmental and Works Coordinator to complement the two existing specialisations:
  - Climbing and Elevated Work Platform
- The packaging rules requires at least one specialisation to be selected and allows for up to three to be achieved. This now truly reflects real industry roles and work functions.
- Two new units have also been created *AHCARB324 Use cranes to access and dismantle trees* and *AHCARB325 Manage trees to create and maintain habitat refuges* to reflect these new and emerging skills
- Removal the log record of 200 hours which were identified as barriers to completion of the qualification in the Case for Change.

### Certificate IV in Arboriculture (**proposed for deletion**)

### Diploma of Arboriculture

The revised Diploma of Arboriculture has had the following changes implemented to reflect the requirements of industry to ensure those individuals that undertake this qualification have a foundation of arborist skills and knowledge.

- Entry requirements added which are all core units from the Certificate III to ensure a sound foundation of arborist skills and knowledge prior to commencing the revised Diploma have been attained:
  - AHCARB314 Implement a tree maintenance program
  - AHCARB316 Perform pruning operations
  - AHCARB323 Identify trees.
- Changes made to both the core and electives to better reflect industry needs
- Core includes two existing level 6 units that have been redesigned as level 5 units

### Advanced Diploma of Arboriculture

Entry requirements updated to reduce the barriers to learners wishing to undertake this qualification And are as follows:

- a diploma of arboriculture  
or
- a diploma or higher qualification in a field related to arboriculture plus 2 years current work experience as a consulting arborist or a municipal tree manager.

### Graduate Diploma of Arboriculture

entry requirements for the revised Graduate Diploma are:

- an advanced diploma of arboriculture or
- an advanced diploma or higher qualification in a field related to arboriculture plus 3 years current work experience as a consulting arborist or a municipal tree manager.

For both qualifications, advice will be provided in the Companion Volume Implementation Guide and the Companion Volume User Guide: Arboriculture, to explain that a field related to arboriculture for these entry requirements include, but is not limited to: agronomy, arboriculture, biology, biomechanics, botany, conservation and land management, ecology, economics, engineering, entomology, environmental science, forestry, landscape architecture, mycology and soil science.

### Prerequisites removed

The following thirteen units have had their prerequisite units removed:

- *AHCARB211 Apply treatments to trees*
- *AHCARB212 Operate and maintain stump grinding machines*
- *AHCARB213 Perform ground-based rigging*
- *AHCARB314 Implement a tree maintenance program*
- *AHCARB315 Inspect trees for access and work*
- *AHCARB316 Perform pruning operations*
- *AHCARB317 Dismantle trees*
- *AHCARB318 Undertake aerial rescue*
- *AHCARB319 Use arborist climbing techniques*
- *AHCARB322 Access trees for inspection*
- *AHCARB407 Supervise and audit tree operations*
- *AHCARB408 Perform a ground-based tree defect evaluation*
- *AHCARB513 Examine and assess trees*

### Units proposed for deletion

The following three units are proposed for deletion as they are no longer needed by industry.

- *AHCARB209 Assist with aerial rescue from the ground*
- *AHCARB210 Work effectively in the arboriculture industry*
- *AHCARB405 Perform geospatial data collection*

### Reduction in units of competency

Two units have been removed from the system. Some of their outcomes embedded into and mapped across to other revised units:

- *AHCARB310 Perform aerial rigging now maps to AHCARB317 Dismantle trees*
- *AHCARB311 Tie, dress, set and finish arborist knots now maps to AHCARB213 Perform ground-based rigging, AHCARB317 Dismantle trees, AHCARB318 Undertake aerial rescue and AHCARB319 Use arborist climbing techniques.*

### Minimum Industry Standards

After consideration by the Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and Conservation & Land Management IRC, the IRC stipulated that incorporating the Minimum Industry Standards into the performance criteria of the units of competency would make the units too complex due to additional and unnecessary micro-level of detail required to incorporate the information within the MIS into the units as suggested. Other factors include:

- Units would become more susceptible to being out of date sooner and require a full review every time the standards were updated
- Increase in the time taken to incorporate industry best practices into the training system
- Additional costs to update units of competency to incorporate the changes to the standards
- Writing the units more simply and referencing industry standards within the units of competency ensures units of competency maintain their currency for longer and are less prone to changes in work procedures

## Arboriculture Project Key Undertakings



With concerns over the ownership, maintenance and any potential future cost increases once these standards are referenced within the units of competency, Arboriculture Australia Ltd. have reiterated that:

- Thirteen RTOs out of the fifteen that deliver Arboriculture qualifications are already referencing MIS and will receive free updates of the MIS as and when they are upgraded and released
- The two RTOs that currently do not have access to the MIS have been informed that they can access the MIS for free to ensure students are not disadvantaged and thereby ensuring these standards are available for use during both the training and assessment of the individuals.
- There is no requirement or need for individuals to pay for the MIS to undertake training. Individuals however may request their employers to obtain copies of the MIS for referencing in the workplace.

The IRC therefore propose the wording is changed within the eleven impacted units of competency from referencing MIS to 'according to current national recognised industry standards.'

- A small number of Australian Standards apply to arborist work. Safe Work Australia have also published the Guide to Managing Risks of Tree Trimming and Removal Work. Where appropriate, Australian Standards have been referenced by their code in selected units of competency. In some units, there is a broader reference to 'current national recognised industry standards' – this is deliberate to ensure users check and follow the standards that apply.

### Letters of support

Twenty (20) letters of support have been received from key industry employers, associations and RTOs who have all been involved and directly impacted in the issues faced in the current qualifications that are live on training.gov.au. Support has been widespread across the country to the work undertaken throughout this project which has tackled and rectified the issues identified in the Case for Change and subsequent Activity Order.

	Organisation Name	Organisation Type	Location	Size of organisation/membership
1	Active Tree Services	Employer	New South Wales	900 employees nationally
2	Michael Sullings	Consulting Arborist	New South Wales	
3	Remote Area Tree Services	Employer	Northern Territory	11 – 20 employees
4	The Tree Doctor	Employer	Queensland	7 employees
5	Tree Care Machinery	Employer	South Australia	7 employees
6	ETS Vegetation Management	Employer	Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, New South Wales & Western Australia	1000 employees
7	Citywide Service Solutions	Employer	Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory	300 employees
8	ENSPEC Environment and Risk	Employer	Victoria, Queensland, South Australia & Tasmania,	9 employees

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9	Arbor Guy Certified Tree Specialist	Employer	Western Australia	20 employees
10	Arboriculture Australia Ltd.	Industry Association	National	
11	The Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists (IACA)	Industry Association	National	
12	Tree Contractors Association	Industry Association	New South Wales	
13	NTA Arboriculture Association	Industry Association	Northern Territory	
14	Queensland Arboriculture Association	Industry Association	Queensland	
15	South Australian Society of Arboriculture	Industry Association	South Australia	
16	Tasmanian Arboriculture Organisation	Industry Association	Tasmania	
17	Melbourne Polytechnic	Registered Training Organisation	Victoria	
18	TAFE NSW	Registered Training Organisation	New South Wales	
19	DNA Training Solutions	Registered Training Organisation	Victoria	
20	Tree Systems	Registered Training Organisation	South Australia	