

Agronomy Project



Summary of Validation Feedback, Responses and Actions

April 2020

This project includes the development of 1 new qualification, 2 new units of competency, and 1 new skill set and the review of 6 units of competency within the AHC Agriculture, Horticulture, Conservation and Land Management Training Package. The final draft materials were developed as a result of feedback provided by stakeholders and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) during the validation period 29 November to 15 December 2019.

A validation meeting was held on the 17 December 2019 where all documents were validated through this process.

Validation feedback was also received from a variety of stakeholders around the country via phone, emails and surveys. The table below provides an overview of the groups and jurisdictions that have provided feedback during this phase of the project.

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	National
Industry (employer / employee)	*								
Industry association									
Union									
Registered Training Organisation (RTO)	*								
Government department	*								

* Note: Feedback received from Industry and associated training organisations have advised no relevant stakeholders in the Australian Capital Territory.

Below is a summary of the issues raised for the draft qualification, units of competency and skill set developed and reviewed for the Agronomy project, and how these issues have been dealt with. This involves a consideration of the information provided, views of industry stakeholders and from people who are part of the Subject Matter Expert Working Group process. Resolutions are constructed to consider the needs and views of stakeholders to the extent possible, and to comply with the Standards for Training Package 2012. The resolutions may represent a compromise on one or more stakeholder views with the aim of a workable outcome for industry, State and Territory Training Authorities (STAs) and training providers.

Acronyms - PC – performance criteria, PE – performance evidence, KE – knowledge evidence, AC – assessment conditions, SMEWG – Subject Matter Experts

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Summary of validation feedback on Qualification

New qualification

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHC51920 Diploma of Applied Agronomy		
Industry Association, NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to include the chemical unit <i>AHCCHM501 Develop and manage a chemical use strategy</i> in the core of the qualification the benefits of pollination and planting of pollination species is adequately covered under the current units (i.e. <i>AHCBAC508 Apply plant biology to agronomic practices</i>) within the unit content (knowledge evidence). 	<p>Comments: Thanks for your feedback, based on SME advice, <i>AHCCHM501 Develop and manage a chemical use strategy</i> to remain in the elective unit list for the qualification.</p>

Summary of validation feedback on Skill Set

New skill set

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHCSS00106 Digital Agronomy Skill Set		
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	Description: remove "and expertise". Target Group & Statement of Attainment: replace "agronomists" with "agricultural professionals".	Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: Description: removed "and expertise". Target Group & Statement of Attainment: replaced "agronomists" with "agricultural professionals".

Summary of validation feedback on Units of Competency

New units of competency

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues	Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHCAGB523 Interpret and use agricultural data	
<p>Industry Association, NT</p>	<p>I have just had a look at the AHCAGB5XX Interpret and use agricultural data unit and would like to make the following comment:</p> <p>Performance evidence dot point 1 requires evidence of PC 1.1 Discuss workplace objectives and farming system with business owner or land manager to determine purpose of information being sought – however there is no performance evidence required of PC 2.4 Discuss and explain data results and information with business owner or land manager.</p> <p>Performance evidence dot point 4 identified, recommended and cost hardware and software solutions to address data gaps where required – requires evidence of recommending hardware and software solutions – however there is no mention of recommending hardware or software solutions in the performance criteria. PC 4.2 recommends solutions, but these are not related to hardware or software.</p> <p>PC 6.1 Review production data to identify increases in productivity as a result of using agricultural data and document results presupposes an increase in productivity which is not necessarily the case – perhaps the word ‘increases’ could be substituted with the word ‘changes’.</p> <p>The unit title has been changed, however the Performance Evidence statement still refers to ‘implemented’ instead of ‘used’. Knowledge evidence dot point 1 also refers to implementing agricultural data. In order to provide consistency all these references could be amended to ‘used’.</p>

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
RTO, VIC	I did suggest the use of the term App (Application) however, I am by no means an expert on the use of the word's software and Application. Apparently, an Application is a type of software program but not all software are Applications. Suggest a check on the use of the terms for clarity.	Explanation: The terms "software program or application" are used throughout the unit to cover both situations.
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	PC3.4 & PC4.2 change to "Discuss and recommend solutions...". PE change "There must be evidence that the individual has interpreted and used agricultural data on at least three occasions during a production cycle and has:" to "There must be evidence that the individual has interpreted and used at least three sources of agricultural data on at least two occasions during a production cycle and has:". KE change second level bullet "farming systems" to "production systems".	Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: PC3.4 & PC4.2 change to "Discuss and recommend solutions...etc". PE changed from "There must be evidence that the individual has interpreted and used agricultural data on at least three occasions during a production cycle and has:...etc" to "There must be evidence that the individual has interpreted and used at least three sources of agricultural data on at least two separate occasions during a production cycle and has:...etc". Last bullet point changed from "recommended opportunities to improve business operational performance utilising. etc" to "identified and reported opportunities for improvements utilising...etc". KE changed second level bullet point from "farming systems" to "production systems".
AHCBA514 Design and manage a crop or pasture nutrition program		
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	KE change second dot point to "• characteristics and variability of soil and uses of soil etc".	Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: KE changed second bullet point from "characteristics of soil and uses of soil etc." to "characteristics and variability of soil and uses of soil etc."

Revised units of competency

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
AHCBA510 Manage integrated crop and pasture production		
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	PC1.5 add plural "programs". PC3.4 change to "Measure, identify and calculate".	Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: PC1.5 changed from "...fertiliser program" to "...fertiliser programs". PC3.4 changed from "Identify and calculate feed...etc" to "Measure, identify and calculate feed...etc".
AHCBA511 Plan and manage a stored grain program		

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	<p>PC4.6 change "Conduct checks to ensure that the performance indicators, targets and specifications are being met and make amendments to the program, where necessary" to "Conduct checks to ensure that the performance indicators, targets and specifications, including grain stored for seed are being met and make amendments to the program, where necessary".</p> <p>KE first bullet, replace "silo" with "storage".</p>	<p>Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: PC4.6 changed from "Conduct checks to ensure that the performance indicators, targets and specifications are being met and make amendments to the program, where necessary" to "Conduct checks to ensure that the grain performance indicators, targets and specifications, including grain stored for seed are being met and make amendments to the program, where necessary".</p> <p>KE first bullet replaced "silo" with "storage" and added a new KE "grain quality requirements, including grain stored for seed" after further deliberation and confirmation by all of the SMEWG members.</p>
AHCBC512 Develop production plans for crops or pastures		
RTO, VIC	has 'plans' plural in the title, singular in the Application, singular in element 4 and plural in the PE (reviewed production plans on at least two occasions). Check for consistency.	Adopted: Changed to plural "plans" in; application, element 4, performance criteria 4.7 and foundation skills - reading and writing.
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	<p>PC3.1 change "varieties" to "production".</p> <p>KE second dot point add in "characteristics and variability...".</p>	<p>Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: PC3.1 changed "varieties" to "production".</p> <p>KE second dot point changed from "cultural practices related to crops or pastures" to "cultural practices, characteristics and variability related to crops or pastures".</p>
AHCBC513 Apply plant biology to agronomic practices		
RTO, QLD	<p>PE</p> <p>I have just read the <i>AHCBC508 Apply plant biology to agronomic practices</i>, there a minor error weeds and introduced species are the same. The preferred nomenclature would be to use introduced species. If one wants to be pedantic then instead of crops and pasture then economic species. The botanical keys can be the same for all the plant species listed, was this intended?</p>	<p>Adopted:</p> <p>PC: 1.4 changed to "Identify a range of...botanical key...etc".</p> <p>PE: Second dot point changed to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "used an appropriate botanical key to identify... including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natives • introduced plants • crops or pastures". <p>AC: changed "botanical keys" to "botanical key".</p>
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	<p>KE change last dot point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "broad knowledge of agronomic practices, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relationship to plant development • farming systems 	<p>Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: KE changed last bullet point from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "broad knowledge of agronomic practices" to

Stakeholder Comments and Identified Issues		Consideration and Proposed Resolution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> weeds as indicators of soil conditions." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> " broad knowledge of agronomic practices, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relationship to plant development farming systems weeds as indicators of soil conditions."
AHCWRK513 Write and present reports		
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	PE change to "two occasions".	Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: PE changed to "two occasions".
AHCWRK514 Manage trial and research material		
SMEWG – National, Vic, NSW, Qld, WA	<p>PC1.7 change "Determine" to "Apply".</p> <p>PC3.2 change "Analyse data to determine significance of research results" to "Collate data to assist in determining significance of research results".</p> <p>remove PC3.3.</p> <p>change PC3.4 to 3.3 update sequential number</p> <p>PE remove bullets" defined the purpose of the trail or research" and "drawn conclusions and applied findings of trials and research".</p> <p>PE change bullet "identified the scope and extent of work" to "identified the purpose, scope and extent of work".</p> <p>PE change bullet "collated data" to " collated data and produced report".</p> <p>KE remove bullet "ecological principles and terminology".</p> <p>KE change bullet "data collection reporting techniques" to "data collection and, reporting techniques".</p>	<p>Adopted: Thanks for your feedback: PC1.7 changed from "Determine" to "Apply". PC3.2 changed from "Analyse data statistically to determine significance of research results" to "Collate data to assist in determining significance of research results".</p> <p>Removed PC3.3.</p> <p>Changed PC3.4 to 3.3 - updated sequential number</p> <p>PE removed bullet points" defined the purpose of the trail or research" and "drawn conclusions and applied findings of trials and research".</p> <p>PE changed bullet point from "identified the scope and extent of work" to "identified the purpose, scope and extent of work".</p> <p>PE changed bullet point from "collated data" to " collated data and produced report".</p> <p>KE removed bullet point "ecological principles and terminology".</p> <p>KE changed bullet point from "data collection, reporting and analysis techniques" to "data collection and reporting techniques".</p>

