

Communique

Meeting No: 2019.02
Date: 17 September 2019

The Pulp and Paper Manufacturing (PPM) Industry Reference Committee (IRC) met in Canberra on 17th September 2019. This was the second meeting for 2019.

The key objective of the meeting was to consider the recommendations of the PPM Industry Workshop held immediately prior to the IRC meeting.

Industry Workshop

The workshop was attended by 17 representatives from companies, trade unions, Skills Impact and ForestWorks. Four members of the IRC were in attendance at the workshop. The outcomes of the workshop were:

1. Industry supports the maintenance of a sector focused Training Package that allows our industry to ensure the skills are directly relevant to the sector and that industry can ensure it reflects our needs now and in the future.
2. RTOs are not delivering to our industry. A number of reasons have been identified:
 - a. Too expensive (system of state based delivery of national goals not working)
 - b. Thin market
 - c. High regulator risk which is exacerbated by:
 - d. Complex training needs
3. Industry agrees to participate in further work to develop a feasible and sustainable delivery model.
4. Industry agrees to explore training and delivery gaps and develop a pilot program to trial solutions to meet these gaps.

The PPM IRC reiterated industry's commitment to using the PPM Training Package. Industry has committed the involvement of their staff, time and resources to drive a resolution that addresses the current barriers to formal enrolments against the national training package qualifications.

A feasible and industry specific delivery model needs to be developed to allow this participation, along with an appropriate review of the current PPM Training Package to ensure it is reflective of current technology and industry need. This will be detailed in the next PPM Industry Skills Forecast.

The outcomes and actions from the workshop were endorsed by the IRC meeting and will be expressed to the AISC as part of the current review and reporting on trends across low use training packages.

Recovered Paper Situation

The IRC meeting also discussed the current Recovered Paper situation as a result of the introduction of strict quality requirements by China and other countries on recycling materials including paper. This could be followed by a ban on importing all recyclables. If the export ban proceeds, >1.5Mt of recovered paper will be collected, but not exported from Australia.

There are number of opportunities that could arise in regard to capability of the industry. These will be progressed with industry and government, and monitored for areas that could be included in the PPM Skills Forecast.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Pulp and Paper Manufacturing IRC is proposed for February 2020.