

Communique

The Aquaculture and Wild Catch Industry Reference Committee (IRC) held their fourth and last meeting for 2020 on Tuesday 15 December, via Zoom conferencing.

This meeting focused on the draft content of the next IRC Annual Update for 2021 and the recent VET Streamlining and Reform.

Industry Annual Update

The first draft Annual Update was presented and considered by the IRC. No Cases for Change have been identified for 2021. The recently released SFI Training Package in 2019 is still in its teach-out transition period, which was extended to 31 December 2020 as a result of COVID-19.

The IRC discussed the impacts on the industry as a result of China bans and will provide further feedback across industry challenges and opportunities for inclusion in the draft by end of January 2021.

SFI Changed Components (BSB/HLT units)

The AWC IRC noted that two units in the SFI training Package were proposed for deletion and agreed to by the AISC in the recent streamlining process.

All other SFI units proposed for deletion have been retained and no qualifications were identified.

VET Streamlining and Prioritisation

There was discussion around the newly endorsed Training Package Development and Endorsement Policy and the process to reinstate deleted units, noting there is an expectation more evidence of current and/or future enrolments will be required in considering all future activities.

IRC Workforce Planning Toolkit

Employers will be able to utilise a Workforce Planning Toolkit to demonstrate skill gaps and need going forward and IRCs will have a higher threshold than they have had in the past for a project to be successful.

State and commonwealth governments are getting together to progress further VET reforms and have launched a new engagement hub for Skills Reform at skillsreform.gov.au. The hub has information and consultation opportunities for industry to engaged and provide feedback throughout the consultation process.

They have released discussion papers on industry engagement and qualification reform and are seeking industry views through surveys and workshop consultations.

General Business

The Chair extended thanks to all members for their work through 2020 and further thanks extended to the work of Skills Impact throughout the busy year.

Skills Impact thanked all members for their continued contributions throughout 2020, acknowledging the additional workload added to their voluntary roles, in already difficult circumstances.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Aquaculture and Wild Catch IRC will be confirmed in 2021.