

*Have your
say!*

AGRIFOOD
SKILLS AUSTRALIA



2011

Environmental Scan

of the agrifood industries

Each year, AgriFood Skills Australia develops the Environmental Scan– the ‘early warning system’ for Australia’s tertiary system and governments on industry’s skill and workforce development needs.

Based on real-time views and evidence from right across the country, it aims to give readers a clear understanding of the factors impacting on the shape and capability of Agrifood’s workforce, and how well the training system, its products and services are responding.

Grass roots insights and immediacy of intelligence are what sets the Scan apart from other reports in the education and training system. For this reason, the Scan is not about recycling already published statistics or economic analyses found elsewhere, and which by their very nature are historical. Rather, it draws on conversations with industry, those doing the jobs, employing the workforce and providing support services to industry – all of whom are experiencing firsthand the issues needing to be written about and to which the training system needs to respond.



Have your say

Consultation for the *2011 Environmental Scan* is now underway and we want to hear from you on any or all of the issues listed on the right.

You can make a written submission, provide key reports or documents for consideration or simply send us an email.

Send your submission to:
scan@agrifoodskills.net.au

no later than 14 December 2010.

To view the existing *2010 Environmental Scan* go to
www.agrifoodskills.net.au.



Tell us about ...

Core questions

1. What are the domestic and international factors impacting on the skills and workforce profile of the agrifood sectors? These may be factors which change the way employees work, be a trigger for new skills or be the cause of occupational shortages/oversupply.
2. How well is Australia's current training system (and the higher education sector) responding to industry's skill needs, what works well or could be done better and what are the key blockages that currently stand in the way?
3. Should the training system have a broader role than just training – should it have a more formalised role around workforce development and building enterprise capability?

Focus questions

4. What are your views on:
 - a. Language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) levels of the current workforce, are they a major barrier to lifting productivity levels? What are the solutions to improve LLN levels among workers?
 - b. National Broadband Network (NBN) and its capacity to change the way we live, work and learn - do we have adequate levels of digital literacy in the workforce or will this become a major barrier to optimising the NBN?
 - c. Is the training system capable of being a major vehicle to diffuse new knowledge and practice generated by the Cooperative Research Centres/ Research and Development Corporations?
 - d. How do we evolve agrifood businesses into 'employers of choice' and ensure their on-going ability to attract highly skilled workers and new entrants into the industry, retain existing workers and reposition the industry's image more broadly?
 - e. With skills shortages again on the horizon, what strategies could attract under-represented groups into the agrifood workforce – women, indigenous Australians, underemployed?
 - f. What agrifood para-professional occupations should be available through a cadetship model (whereby a person is employed at a para-professional level, trained on and off the job, with incentives paid to the learner and employer)?
 - g. How can we attract a greater number of people into the agrifood sector to meet workforce shortages? How should we engage younger generations to counteract an aging workforce?