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## Media Release – For immediate release

### Infrastructure and Construction Skills Crisis Needs Urgent Action

The Civil Contractors Federation National (CCF) has recommended a series of measures the Federal Government should implement as a matter of urgency to ensure Australia's civil construction industry is equipped to meet future skills demand.

The recommendations are contained in the CCF's recent [submission](#) on the *Australian Apprenticeships National Skills Needs List* (NSNL) which is being reviewed by the Government prior to the introduction of the *Incentives for Australian Apprenticeships* program on 1 July 2020.

"The CCF welcomes the Government's commitment to invest in skills, education and training to meet Australia's future skill needs, but we believe an overhaul of how skills are identified and listed is urgently required," said Chris Melham, Chief Executive Officer, Civil Contractors Federation.

"The need for an overhaul is in light of significant funding investments being made by governments into a range of infrastructure projects, and the ongoing challenges this presents the civil construction industry to ensure the industry's skills base can meet future demand.

"The NSNL is not representative of the skill shortages currently facing our industry, and it needs to be updated to ensure it is fit for purpose to support a framework that best identifies the skills needed to support a growing economy. As a first step, we are calling on the Government to list several critical construction and infrastructure occupations on the NSNL before the new federal apprenticeships program comes into effect on 1 July 2020". he said.

"The appropriate classification of infrastructure and construction occupations on the list is an important step towards ensuring industry can deliver apprenticeship programs that bring skilled workers into our industry to meet growing demand," he said.

Mr Melham said a broader requirement to help bridge the growing skills gap is for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to amend how it classifies infrastructure and construction occupations in its industry surveys. "CCF encourages the ABS to update the Australia and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) to bring infrastructure and construction occupations to Major Group 3 Technicians and Trades Workers in ABS surveys.

"Action on these and other critical issues identified in the CCF submission will help position Australia's civil construction industry to meet growing skills challenges into the future," he concluded.

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*"The peak voice of the Civil Construction Sector"*