

## Media Release – For immediate release

### **CIVIL CONSTRUCTION SEEKS FORMAL RECOGNITION AS A TRADE AT UPCOMING JOBS AND SKILLS SUMMIT**

Australia’s leading voice for the civil infrastructure sector, Civil Contractors Federation National (CCF) will use the infrastructure jobs and skills roundtable on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022 (hosted by the Hon. Catherine King, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government) to call for civil occupations to be classified as major trades within the ANZSCO Coding system to address the jobs and skills crisis facing the civil construction industry.

“CCF commends Minister King for consulting with industry prior to the Jobs and Skills Summit and looks forward to providing her with the ‘silver bullet’ that will have an immediate impact in addressing major skill gaps in the civil infrastructure sector,” said Mr. Chris Melham, Chief Executive Officer, CCF.

CCF’s own infrastructure outlook [click here](#) suggests the total annual value of civil construction investment is expected to reach \$82bn by FY23 from a base of \$65bn in FY20 – this is the total annual infrastructure investment of federal and state governments and the private sector. Urgent action is needed to ensure the civil construction sector has sufficient skilled and unskilled workers to deliver on Australia’s infrastructure investment pipeline.

“As part of CCF’s 2022 Infrastructure Market Capacity Survey [click here](#) respondents were asked to rank a number of threats to the delivery of the infrastructure investment pipeline, ranging from the availability of raw materials, through to the availability of skilled and unskilled labour.

Melham said, “in each state and territory, the highest ranked issue was the lack of availability of local skilled tradespeople and professionals to undertake construction projects.

CCF will be calling as a matter of urgency for civil occupations to be formally classified as trades on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), a pre-requisite for being listed on Australian Apprenticeships Priority List and subsequent government funding under the \$2.4 billion federal government Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program”, Melham said.

This short term reform will deliver the necessary incentive for new entrants to enroll in civil apprenticeships, encourage existing workers to upskill, VET providers to train more personnel, and employers to take on more apprentices as they will qualify for financial assistance under the federal government’s \$2.4 billion Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program.

CCF will also raise and support the need for skilled migration to be used as part of the overall employment retention and attraction strategy to address the skills and employment gap.

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Contact: Duncan Sheppard, CCF National Senior Policy and Communications Advisor, 0438 330 039

*“The peak voice of the Civil Construction Sector”*