

21/11/16

Department of Education and Training
Skilled Occupations List Team
E-mail: SOL@education.gov.au

Dear Department,

Re: Submissions for the 2017-18 Skilled Occupations List Review

The Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) would like to make the following contribution to the submission process for the **2017-18 Skilled Occupations List (SOL) Review**.

The ATN is a consortium of five of the most innovative and enterprising universities in Australia, including Curtin University in Perth, RMIT University in Melbourne, QUT in Brisbane, UTS in Sydney and the University of South Australia in Adelaide. With a university in each mainland state, the ATN produces graduates across Australia who are equip for range of diverse careers. As such, the ATN are invested in making sure that there is the right match of skill demand and supply of graduates to meet Australia's medium to long-term workforce needs.

The ATN notes that there are a large number of engineering professions on the 'Flagged Occupations on the SOL for 2017-18' list. While noting the current downward trend for graduate engineers in a wide range of sectors, the ATN supports the assertion made in the [Engineers Australia Response to the SOL list 2017-2018](#) that engineering capabilities will be required for new and emerging technologies.

Australia is an internationally well-regarded destination for producing quality engineering graduates. 37 Australian universities currently offer engineering to both international and domestic students. In addition, the opportunity for graduates of Australian universities to pursue employment for up to two years after graduation has cemented Australia as a world-class destination.

Combined with cyclical trends, demographic information highlighting that many older engineers are due to retire from the workforce, and the likely downturn in the number of engineering graduates, we may risk a skill shortage of engineers when demands returns. Currently a proportion of graduate jobs are being filled by international student graduates who are able to work for the two years after their graduation. Domestic graduates alone would not currently be able to fill all of Australia's engineering workforce needs. As such, the ATN encourages the Department to retain engineering related occupations on the 2017-18 Skilled Occupations List Review.

Please do not hesitate to contact the ATN Directorate on (08) 8302 9135 or via e-mail at renee.hindmarsh@atn.edu.au to discuss any elements of the submission further.

Yours sincerely



Renee Hindmarsh
ATN Executive Director