WA Workforce Strategy 2026-2030

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Strategic response for the defence industry

Western Australia is at the forefront of Australia's uplift in sovereign capability, with AUKUS, continuous naval shipbuilding and submarine sustainment activities driving significant investment in the State.

Delivering the Henderson Defence Precinct, upgrading HMAS Stirling and building the upgraded Mogami class frigates will require a significant expansion of the skilled defence industry workforce.

Workforce projections

+ 4,100
defence industry workers by 2035

Occupations expected to drive workforce demand to 2035

- structural steel and welding trades workers
- project administrators
- software programmers
- metal fitters and machinists
- industrial, mechanical and production engineers
- engineering managers
- electricians

Targeted actions to grow workforce

The WA Workforce Strategy will strengthen workforce pipelines, support workforce transitions and expand education and training pathways to ensure the defence sector has access to the skilled workers it needs.

Action 23: Consider defence-specific employer incentive settings to ensure a defence-ready trades workforce (leverage key strategy 3)

Action 24: Grow existing worker traineeships for defence trades to upskill workers transitioning to work in the defence industry

Action 25: Grow TAFE-University Diploma pathways to attract students to work in the defence sector (leverage career pathways and promotions)