



**Further Information:**  
Pip McConachie  
Colvin Communications  
(02) 8314 7178/ 0402 448 745

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **TAFE NSW- Western Institute recognised for excellence in Mining**

TAFE NSW Western Institute has been recognised as a leading Registered Training Organisation with a Three Gold Star Rating for its Mining programs.

The Star Rating Scheme is administered by The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence and recognises high distinction in trade skills training among Registered Training Organisations.

David Chapman, Program Leader for Mining at TAFE NSW - Western Institute, said, "Western Institute has an excellent relationship with the mining Industry and delivers an extensive range of training through its partnerships with a number of mining companies."

"The Three Gold Star Rating recognises the quality of our training and services to the mining industry, which represents a significant and growing economic driver throughout Central and Western NSW."

"TAFE NSW - Western Institute has a reputation for providing flexible workplace training in mines across Australia and has, through communication and a commitment to customer service, established strong enterprise partnerships", Mr Chapman concluded.

The Star Rating Scheme identifies the very best training providers across all industries to enable employers, career counsellors, potential students, and parents to distinguish excellence in trade training by evaluating training providers.

Industry areas within Registered Training Organisations may apply to be considered for a One, Two or Three Gold Star Rating which indicates the level of service provided and excellence of outcomes for their clients.

The Star Rating Scheme focuses on the following eight areas of skill shortage: Automotive, Building and Construction, Electrical, Hospitality and Personal

Services, Manufacturing, Metals and Engineering, Mineral Resources, Rural and Farming.

Evaluations are carried out against three broad criteria, developed in partnership with the associated industry. These categories are:

- Training and assessment which focuses on enterprise and learner needs;
- Excellent trainers and assessors, and contemporary equipment; and
- Support to enable enterprises and learners to get the most out of the apprenticeship/traineeship.

The evaluation process includes an initial self evaluation by the relevant faculty or school, followed by a site visit to schools or faculties who demonstrate potential to achieve a One, Two or Three Gold Star rating.

Brian Wexham, Chief Executive Officer of The Institute for Trade Skills Excellence said that the Star Rating Scheme reassures students and industry enterprises that they are selecting the most appropriate registered training provider and training program.

“One of the biggest concerns when choosing a course is whether or not it will get people the job they want when they complete the course. Thanks to the Star Ratings Scheme, prospective students and employers now have a credible source to validate a course.”

“The Scheme aims to recognise high performing registered training providers such as TAFE NSW - Western Institute, and help individual schools and faculties understand exactly what their clients want from their training.”

“The Star Rating Scheme is an industry driven initiative and has been developed by The Institute of Trade Skills and industry to provide a platform that will deliver the vocational training outcomes required to meet industry needs” said Mr Wexham.

David Chapman, Program Leader of TAFE NSW Western Institute, said the Gold Star Rating Scheme not only strengthens Institute recognition, but also bolsters the trade skills economy to effectively address Australia’s skills shortage.

“The process to help us obtain independent industry recognition has been valuable and reinforces our goal to ensure our learners and trainees have the right skills to contribute to industry and the region’s economy. We will continue to strive to achieve excellence in training for mining enterprises across the country” said Mr Chapman.

**ENDS**