



## CAPABILITY STATEMENT

### TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute, Trade and Technology Faculty – Mining Section

The TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute has been recognised by the Institute for Trade Skills Excellence as one of Australia’s premier providers, and has been awarded **two gold stars** under the Star Rating Scheme for its Mining section situated in Wollongong. The Illawarra Institute Mining section delivers training based on nationally endorsed standards, particularly the extractive and coal packages, and focuses on the extractive and mining sectors.

A summary of the TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute’s strengths against the evaluation criteria are:

#### *Training and assessment which focuses on enterprise and learner needs*

TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute has developed an entrepreneurial Mining section delivering extractive and mining related training to a diverse range of clients across New South Wales and beyond. Illawarra has a long history of association with the local mining and heavy industry sectors, however they have made a considerable shift in moving from a traditional delivery model to an industry-based delivery approach. They have diversified across a greater range of mining sectors and clients, with a particularly strong focus on the extractive industry sector. They have powerfully demonstrated the skill of listening to, and adapting to changing industry requirements. This is clearly demonstrated at a senior level within the faculty.

This innovative approach to industry training, and particularly assessment, is underpinned by a mix of in-house resources and the use of highly experienced contractors who have had experience at a senior level in the mineral resources industry. They have demonstrated great strengths in support to remote companies and learners, with the use of powerful partnerships with mining equipment providers and clients themselves. A Certificate in Longwall Operation in partnership with an equipment provider demonstrated an innovative approach to meeting niche industry requirements.

#### *Excellent trainers and assessors, and contemporary equipment*

The Mining section staff and contractors are highly skilled and committed team, who are flexible in their mode of operation. The mix of internal staff, external contractors and product knowledge from equipment providers is a powerful aspect of their delivery model. The team clearly has a strong client focus, based on building relationships and partnerships. They have developed innovative assessment tools, supported by a mix of their own equipment and that of clients and industry partners.

#### *Support to enable enterprises and learners get the most out of the apprenticeship/ traineeship and vocational training*

The TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute Mining section is supported by a strong business development unit with a one-stop-shop approach to industry responsiveness utilising dedicated Client Managers. This is supported by a partnership with a consultancy that works with industry to identify trainees and assists companies through the VET funding processes. Their strong commitment to on-site support to enterprisers and learners is clearly evident. The ultimate measure of their success is the rise in training hours, number of clients, growth in partnerships and level of repeat business.

**For more information about the** TAFE NSW – Illawarra Institute and the Mining section **visit their website** at <http://www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au/>

The **Institute for Trade Skills Excellence** is an initiative of Australian industry and Government established to promote the trades and recognise those registered training organisations (RTOs) truly focused on industry's needs and achieving excellent results.

How does it work? ... Under the **Star Rating Scheme**, individual faculties or schools within RTOs are evaluated by the Institute using industry experts and industry designed criteria. Those considered excellent are awarded one gold star, two gold stars or three gold stars by the Institute. The Institute issues a **Capability Statement** for each RTO which it publishes to explain the school or faculty's strengths and the level of service an employer can expect to receive.

Quite simply, where RTOs are doing great things, the Institute wants to ensure industry knows about it, and so an employer looking to select an RTO for their apprentice or trainee, can make an informed choice.