



Waihanga Ara Rau Workforce Development Council is the standard setting body construction and infrastructure. We work closely with our industries to develop qualifications and standards, endorse programmes, moderate assessments, and provide skills leadership for our sector.

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Shaping the Future: Renewable Energy & Solar

The renewable energy sector is creating exciting new opportunities for those passionate about sustainability and innovation. With the global shift towards greener solutions, now is the perfect time for career seekers to make a meaningful impact on the world by contributing to the future of clean energy.

Cultivating an interest in green technologies and problem solving, can open diverse job opportunities. From technical roles such as heavy machinery and electrical works, managerial positions, labouring and administration. A career in renewable energy can more accessible than ever.

Key skills for a career in Renewable Energy include:

- A passion for continuous learning
- Problem solving skill and adaptability
- Project management
- Technical expertise
- Communication and teamwork
- Commitment to sustainability

Get inspired with stories such as this recent article by EPIC Work NZ – “As the demand for Solar Energy increases, the opportunities for entry into the Civil Construction Industry will rise alongside it bringing opportunities for on-the-job training & exposure to a wide range of skills”.

Read the full article here: [Building solar farms offers bright future for Kiwi job seekers - EPIC Work NZ](#)

The Future of Energy in NZ: <https://youtu.be/JxeebabYuKU>

Staying in touch with big solar and wind farm projects around the country is a great start in directing career seekers to opportunity! With a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2035 now is a great time to be supporting career seekers into a career in Renewable Energies

Energy That Doesn't Cost The Earth: [New Zealand Story \(nzstory.govt.nz\)](#)

Industry spotlight: Finishing Trades careers

For career seekers keen on a **hands on-creative career**, Finishing Trades might be the perfect fit! Finishing Trades include essential skills like painting and decorating, plastering, tiling and more – all of which are crucial in bringing life and beauty to homes and buildings. A career in this sector offers the chance to leave a lasting mark on spaces where people live, work and play.

[Meet Tegan Williams, 2021 New Zealand Tradeswoman of the Year](#)

High demand for skilled workers The Finishing Trades sector is facing a workforce shortage, making it an excellent time to enter the industry.

By March 2026, the Finishing Trades sector is projected to have:

1391 extra people needed in flooring work

14,576 workers needed in painting roles

Why does finishing trades stand out as a career choice?

Diverse career options: the most common roles include paint trade workers and plasterers.

Growing opportunities for women: Women in Finishing Trades have grown by an incredible 71% between 2012 and 2022 making it an increasingly inclusive sector.

Strong economic impact: Finishing Trades contribute 7% to New Zealand's GDP, employing 29,270 people.

Youth engagement: The industry saw a 19% increase in workers 15-19 in 2018.

Read more about Finishing Trades:

[Apprenticeship NZ in building and construction | BCITO](#)

[Tradie Gal | Lifestyle & DIY \(@tradiegall\)](#)

Occupation spotlight – stepping into Civil

Traffic management within the Civil Infrastructure sector offers an excellent entry into the industry. Temporary Traffic workers play a vital role in projects such as major road network expansions, civic, sporting and music events as well as traffic control around construction projects, ensuring safety and efficiency. This pathway is ideal for those who enjoy problem-solving, teamwork, being outdoors and making an immediate impact.

Encouraging career seekers to explore roles in traffic management includes varied opportunities such as traffic planning, traffic management design, traffic signage and equipment, traffic control and management and site inspections. The opportunity to gain practical experience on high-profile projects will provide career seekers with invaluable skills to continue to explore their pathway.

With a range of NZQA credentials that support pathways in Temporary Traffic Management from Level 2 to Level 4 there are options for gaining the technical skills required of this industry.

Training opportunities: [Find training | Jobs and Skills Hubs](#)

Opportunities also exist through **Gateway programme providers** for an entry point to the civil sector for school students including Temporary Traffic Management.

Watch this video to hear about one persons journey into and through Traffic Control: [EPIC People: Fiona Jerry](#)

Spotlight connecting students with industry

Highlighting an initiative between school, industry and community that showcases the wide-reaching opportunities in a Trades Career that contribute to a Construction project. Increasing knowledge, providing hands on experience and changing perceptions of careers in Construction and Infrastructure.

This article provides great advice on how to connect locally to come together to support career seekers into a career in construction and infrastructure: [Construction experience builds community connections – Education Gazette](#)

Perceptions of construction and infrastructure

Recent Ipsos perceptions research highlighted that less than 20% of respondents were able to identify more than four occupations in Construction and Infrastructure. However, a recent infrastructure report highlighted a large and complex workforce: with over 100,000 full-time equivalent workers spread across more than 100 distinct occupation, there's something for everyone.

Explore the research: [Career Perceptions of the Construction and Infrastructure Industries](#)

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