



MEDIA RELEASE

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Pit Crew launches National Workforce Report for Mining, Oil & Gas, Heavy Industry and Infrastructure Sectors

Pit Crew's latest report, the *National Workforce Report for the Mining, Oil & Gas, Heavy Industry and Infrastructure Sectors* has been released this month into a strong and changing major project market.

The report combines construction, operations & maintenance, and shutdown modelling into a single output data set which permits analysis and outputs for whole-of-life workforce analysis, and shortage forecasting of specific projects and assets. It identifies and quantifies skills gaps and shortages across disciplines and occupations to a 4-digit occupation code level.

Pit Crew founder and Managing Director Peter Dyball explains that all Australian states and territories are currently experiencing high levels of major project activity.

"This is different to past market dynamics, he said.

"Infrastructure and renewable energy projects have increasing prominence alongside mining and oil & gas, and the COVID-19 pandemic has added layers of complexity to workforce demand, availability, and mobility. Workforce and labour shortages are now a national issue."

Pit Crew modelling shows that current workforce demand in the mining, oil & gas, heavy industry and infrastructure sectors equates to round 394,000 people with operations demand being the largest share, followed by construction and shutdown demand. Availability of workers is just under 319,000 leaving a current gap (shortage) of around 75,000. Pit Crew forecast a peak shortage of over 84,000 workers in the August Quarter 2024, with constraints in most occupations over the remainder of 2022 and through to at least 2025.

While the impact of shortages will be felt in a number of highly skilled trades, such as boilermakers, welders and heavy diesel mechanics, in terms of total shortage numbers earthmoving equipment operators will be most impacted with a forecast shortage of over 14,400 expected in 2023.

In WA the majority shortage will be across the technical and trades workforce with acute shortages forecast between 2022 and 2025 for boilermakers, welders, fitters, heavy diesel mechanics, electricians, and carpenters. The WA market will also see shortages of crane operators, steel fixers, riggers and scaffolders in this period. The variety of occupation shortages is due to the mix of projects and operations in this state. Based on movement in the market over the past 12 months, Pit Crew forecast a peak workforce shortage in WA totalling around 32,000 in the August Quarter 2024 which is slightly lower than previous forecasts. The report notes a key contributor to this easing in peak demand is that as a result of current labour constraints, the market is starting to self-constrain or self-correct.

"The National Workforce Report can facilitate a whole-of-organisation view of the labour market across the country, says Mr Dyball.

"This is a strategic advantage for stakeholders with major projects and operations across several states as it means their different business units can have aligned, rather than competing strategies."

With the Australian Government's Jobs and Skill Summit about to commence, Pit Crew's National Workforce Report underlines the urgent need for industry to have access to skilled and experienced overseas workers and for government to facilitate mobility of these resources as soon as possible.

About Pit Crew:

Pit Crew is a small consultancy working closely with stakeholders in the mining, oil & gas, heavy industry and infrastructure sectors since 2004. Our key service delivery is the analysis, forecasting and reporting of workforce resources demand and availability in these sectors. In short, Pit Crew forecast which skills will be in short supply, where, when and by how many. Pit Crew deliver this information via a range of standard and custom labour market reports and remain the only organisation in Australia regularly delivering such reports.

Pit Crew's client list includes BHP, Rio Tinto, OZ Minerals, Woodside, Perth Airport and Inpex.

Contact:

Peter Dyball

Cell) +61 417 092 169

Web) www.pitcrew.com.au

