

IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN

EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS

AHC21119 - Certificate II in Irrigation

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for entry-level workers in the irrigation industry.

Individuals with this qualification work under routine supervision where the work is predictable and structured with limited judgement requirements. Work must comply with work health and safety and environmental regulations and legislation that apply to the workplace.

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AHC20116 - Certificate II in Agriculture

This qualification provides a general vocational outcome in agriculture. The qualification enables individuals to select a livestock production, cropping or livestock context as a job focus or, in the case of mixed farming enterprises, both cropping and livestock. Individuals with this qualification carry out routine tasks under general supervision and exercise limited autonomy with some accountability for their own work. Job roles vary across different industry sectors and may include specialising in on-farm irrigation systems.

AHC32422 - Certificate III in Irrigation Technology

Individuals with this qualification perform tasks under broad supervision involving a broad range of skills that are applied in a wide variety of contexts, which will involve discretion and judgement in selecting and operating equipment, coordinating resources and applying contingency measures during work. This role covers all or some of the following - install, measure, troubleshoot and repair drainage and irrigation systems, operate and maintain gravity fed systems and operate sensor technology. They will also work with injection systems, pumps and pressure systems. *This is the trade qualification and must be completed to be recognised as a qualified irrigation technician.*

AHC41119 - Certificate IV in Irrigation Management

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for supervisory and management job roles in the irrigation industry. Individuals with this qualification perform tasks involving technical skills, problem solving and supervisory skills to operate, monitor and improve performance of irrigation systems and supervise the installation of irrigation systems. Work must comply with work health and safety and environmental regulations and legislation that apply to the workplace.

AHC51619 - Diploma of Irrigation Design

This qualification describes the skills and knowledge for technical and leadership job roles in the irrigation industry.

Individuals with this qualification will take personal responsibility and exercise autonomy in undertaking complex work. They must analyse information and exercise judgement to complete a range of advanced skilled activities.

Work must comply with work health and safety and environmental regulations and legislation that apply to the workplace.

SKILLS SETS:

There are a range of skills sets available to meet specific industry occupations or specialisations.

- AHCSS00093- Gravity Fed Irrigation Operator Skill Set
- AHCSS00094- Irrigation Agronomist Skill Set
- AHCSS00095- Irrigation Contractor Skill Set
- AHCSS00096- Irrigation Installer Skill Set
- AHCSS00097- Irrigation Manager Skill Set
- AHCSS00102- Irrigation Meter Installation and Validation Skill Set
- AHCSS00101- Irrigation Retail Sales Skill Set
- AHCSS00092- Irrigation Retailer Skill Set
- AHCSS00099- Irrigation Systems Auditor Skill Set
- AHCSS00100- Irrigation Systems Efficiency Skill Set
- AHCSS00099- Irrigation Systems Auditor Skill Set
- AHCSS00100- Irrigation Systems Efficiency Skill Set

For further information or advise contact

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CAREER PATHWAYS/SPECIALISATIONS

Once you have completed your training as a qualified irrigation technician you may like to explore the opportunity to specialise in a particular area of irrigation installation a design or establish your own business as a specialist in one of the following areas -

Irrigation Agronomist

Agronomists conduct experiments to develop the best methods for increasing the quality and production of crops. Based on their experiments, agronomists work with farmers to help them grow the best possible crops, such as corn, cotton, soybeans, and wheat. They have an extensive knowledge of chemistry, biology, economics, earth science, ecology, and genetics. Agronomists can specialise in water and soil this involves implementing practises to improve water quality, manage runoff, and control erosion.

Golf courses, parks and recreation facilities specialist

Golf courses, sports fields, parks and other recreation facilities offer large green spaces for community use. Keeping these landscapes safe, functional and visually pleasing requires careful maintenance of the irrigation system. Safety is a high priority due to the large number of people who use these spaces, affecting everything from system layout to pesticide use. Irrigation professionals who manage community landscapes monitor conditions on a daily or weekly basis; adjust watering schedules as needed; inspect and repair sprinkler heads, pipes and other components; apply treatments to deal with insects and other pests; and provide routine care for grass, trees, shrubs, fences, paths and other structures.

Irrigation Operations Manager

Operations managers oversee all operations of a specific distributor location, including irrigation services, inventory management, customer service, human resources and administration. Together with sales managers and ownership (for smaller distributors) or headquarters staff (for larger distributors), operations managers identify business objectives; develop budgets and financial forecasts; and implement plans to improve profitability, asset management and employee satisfaction.

Irrigation Meter Installation and Validation

To become a Certified Meter Installer & Validator (CMI) to install and validate rural water meters according to the Australian Standards and as laid out in the National Framework for Non-Urban Water Metering Policy Paper, participants will need to demonstrate competency in a total of six units of competency listed under the National Framework. They must have previous experience in the following Operation of irrigation and drainage systems; installation of flow measurement devices, identifying and troubleshooting problems, measuring and monitoring system performance.

Irrigation Retailer

Irrigation retailers are also known as dealers/distributors, they buy irrigation and related products in bulk from different manufacturers, then sell them in smaller quantities to farms, ranches, orchards, nurseries, horticulture producers and other growers. In addition to sales and marketing, dealer/distributors provide key business functions for manufacturers, including warehousing and logistics. To growers, distributors offer the convenience of one-stop shopping by selling multiple manufacturers' products, ranging from irrigation pipe to chemical crop treatments

Irrigation Systems Auditor

Irrigation auditors evaluate whether installed irrigation systems are working as designed. They measure and analyse irrigation water use, identify components that need repair or replacement, and recommend a watering schedule. Auditors also identify opportunities to improve water-use efficiency and reduce costs to operate the system. Irrigation audits assist enterprises to save cost on water wastage and equipment failure.

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INDUSTRY CONTACTS CAREER PATHWAYS

For further information relating to this job click on the logo to open the web page or scan on the QR code .

	<p>Irrigation Australia</p>	
	<p>National Irrigators Council</p>	
	<p>Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development W.A.</p>	
	<p>Farm Management Systems (article on irrigation in Australia)</p>	

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HINTS ON HOW TO APPLY FOR THIS JOB

The first thing to do is to look up the local irrigation specialists or contractors and ring them or meet with them to discuss the opportunity to work in this industry. If you can't locate a contractor then follow the 10 steps below that could assist you to secure work with an irrigation technician -

1. Identify your strengths and weaknesses, especially in problem solving and maths as these are essential to being successful as an irrigation technician. Completing any of the following; a basic chainsaw course, white card, agriculture or horticulture units of competence as well as using hand/power tools will provide the practical skills that will assist you to meet the selection criteria that employers set.
2. Decide where you want to work; are you willing to relocate to get your dream job? There may be more opportunities in cities than in regional areas.
3. Do some research, as to who the key employers are that could employ an irrigation technician such as councils, farmers, large sports clubs, or nurseries. Make enquiries to see if they are hiring or will take on trainees.
4. Research information about these employers or companies that you would like to work for; find out what the entry requirements or essential criteria are that must be met; such as do you need to complete an aptitude test before getting an interview?
5. Make a shortlist of potential prospective employers to contact. You may also like to chat to your job search agent or search some of the online employment agencies such as SEEK, Jobsearch, Indeed or Linked In to find job vacancies for electricians in your region.
6. Create a quality resume and include your academic achievements, experience, interests and passions.
7. Contact potential employers by writing or directly calling them to demonstrate your interest and communication skills. Prospective employers highly value self-starters and prospective career aspirants with initiative who take such steps to seek for themselves employment as an apprentice.
8. If you are still at school, you may be able to take up a school-based apprenticeship. There are opportunities available in some schools that allow you to take on a part-time apprenticeship known as a School-Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT). Ask your school if they support this government initiative and ask the employer if they would be interested in such an arrangement. SBATs are a really good way to allow you to finish school and at the same time learn and earn as an apprentice.
9. Your employer should contact the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASNs) - <https://www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au/> for further information on how to sign you up.
10. Sign up to your traineeship with your employer (and support of your family if you are under 18 years old) to start "learning and earning" to be an irrigation technician.

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THESE RELATED JOBS?

Nursery Person

Provides in-depth plant knowledge and associated products to customers ,visual merchandising, receiving and dispatching products, in store promotions and marketing. Many large nurseries require a complex irrigation system to ensure peak production and quality products for sale. An irrigation technician could specialise in establishing sensitive irrigation systems to meet ,individual plant species needs.

Horticulturist

Horticulturists have scientific knowledge in how to cultivate and propagate plants and use this knowledge to provide technical information to fruit, vegetable, and flower growers, as well as farmers. Horticulturists also conduct pest and disease investigations and experiment with improved varieties of plants with greater resistance to disease.

Viticulturalist

Viticulturists plan, supervise and coordinate the growing of selected grape varieties to produce wine, dried fruit, or table grapes. Viticulturists spend a lot of time outdoors in vineyards, but also work indoors in laboratories, offices, and grape processing facilities.

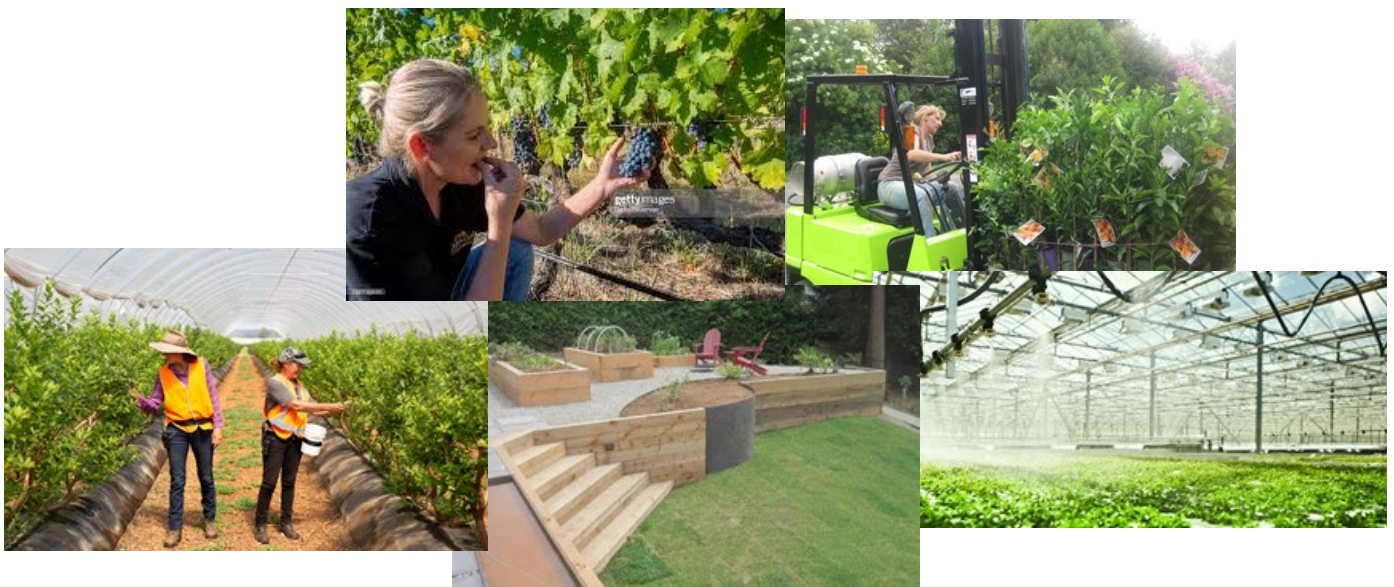
Orchardist

Plants and cultivates trees, like apple, orange, and walnut, and harvests fruit and nut crops, applying knowledge of horticulture market conditions. Determines varieties quantities of trees to be grown, acreage to be tilled and employees to be hired.

Landscape Contractor

A landscape contractor is involved with construction of driveways, pergolas, decks, paths, water features, playgrounds, garden areas, fencing and anything else that allows for a landscape to be created.

You will also be involved with planting out selected plant material for the landscape jobs you have finished, you will need to prepare the planting areas, install the plants, mulch, water and fertilise then look after these plants until they establish in the landscape.



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