

# LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR



**Do you want to work in an exciting and ecofriendly industry that actively encourages women to apply and provides the following opportunities?**

- learn to transfer plain spaces into a natural oasis
- work outdoors and close to nature
- potential to run your own business
- gain a broad range of transferable skills
- continuing study options
- potential to apply your creative side



## OVERVIEW OF INDUSTRY

The Landscape Construction industry is unique. Landscape Construction or sometimes called Structural Landscaping is one of the many branches of horticulture. Structural landscaping is work involved in the construction of external landscape features, and non-habitable structures (structures you cannot live in). No other industry sector is as varied as the landscape construction industry, it has elements of both hardscape (construction) and softscape (plants and soils) work. Project work can involve residential landscapes or commercial and industrial developments such as office buildings, shopping centres, hotels and public areas. The projects can range from new landscapes to renovations and everything in between.

## WHAT DOES A LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR DO

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. Once qualified and experienced, you can apply for your Structural Landscape Licence (you do need to be licenced to undertake construction projects).

A career in landscape construction might be for you if you are interested in outdoor work constructing beautiful landscapes and gardens spaces. The work is physically demanding but rewarding. So, you need to be physically fit and enjoy working with your hands. You will usually be part of a team so need to be prepared to work with people and be a cooperative team member.

**“I love working as a landscape contractor because I’m outdoors working closely with nature beautifying the environment and creating amazing projects for others to enjoy.”**

For further information or advise contact  
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## LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

### Selection Criteria:

*The role of a landscape contractor can be quite diverse the following criteria applies to this job –*

- Enjoy working outdoors
- Like working with their hands and be physically fit
- Good eye for detail and creative ideas
- Ability to follow written instructions and diagrams
- Able to use hand tools and power tools
- Team player and good communicator
- Ability to operate a range of machinery and equipment

### TASKS YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO DO

- \*Laying paving using a variety of paving materials
- \*Forming, pouring and finishing concrete features such as footings and driveways
- \*Timber structures such as building decks, pergolas, gazebos, timber garden edges and benches
- \*Using stone for cladding, feature walls, garden edging and stairs.
- \*Using a range of materials to finish off pool surrounds
- \*Building water features and ponds.
- \*Erecting fences from a range of materials including metal, timber and aluminium
- \*Building retaining walls using blocks, brick, timber, rock or sandstone.
- \*Installing drainage systems.

### Training Requirements and Pathways

**Entry level/traineeship qualification:** AHC20520- Certificate II in Arboriculture

#### Entry level:

**AHC21621 - Certificate II in Landscaping**

This is the entry level qualification for school-based trainees or new entries to industry that are not sure that they want to commit to an apprenticeship.

#### Trade Qualification:

**AHC30921-Certificate III in Landscape construction**

For those employed to assist in the construction of outdoor areas such as pergolas, decks, retaining walls, driveways, fences, ponds, pools or any other hard feature that requires council approval as well as the use of specialised machinery and equipment then this is the qualification that best suits this occupation.

#### Apprenticeship:

This is the qualification required to be completed is you are undertaking an Apprenticeship.

Apprenticeships in the landscaping industry usually take 4 years which consist of completing the relevant VET qualification (AHC30921) and time in industry gaining the level of skill to be signed off as a trades person.

#### Income/opportunities

##### Opportunities

The landscaping industry has seen an increase in growth due to homeowners wanting to renovate properties and commercial builders being more aware of the impact large scale construction has on the environment so include landscaping into the project plans.

There are many opportunities in this industry to start your own business (in NSW you need to be licenced) and you must have a licence before you do any residential building work in NSW, including structural landscaping, valued at more than \$5000 (incl GST) in labour and materials. The average employee earns \$55,000 to \$65,000 per year, with landscape designers earning up to \$90,000 and landscape architects up to \$110,000 per year.

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